



Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

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Arab-Israeli Talks

PLO's Sha'th Says Talks With Israel Postponed

NC0312194694 Paris AFP in English 1857 GMT
3 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Gaza City, Gaza Strip, Dec 3 (AFP)—Talks between Israel and the PLO on Palestinian elections, scheduled to resume Monday [5 December] in Cairo, have been delayed by a day at Israel's request, chief PLO negotiator Nabil Sha'th said Saturday.

Sha'th, also planning "minister" in the Palestinian self-rule authority, told AFP that Israel had requested that the talks begin Tuesday. He did not elaborate.

Meanwhile the Palestinian "cabinet" which met here Saturday urged Israel to comply with the terms of the autonomy deal which launched Palestinian self-rule in the Gaza Strip and West Bank town of Jericho in May.

"The cabinet stresses the importance of fulfilling the terms ... concerning the redeployment of the Israeli army and the preparation for elections," said a statement carried by the official Palestinian news agency WAFA.

Sha'th said the redeployment of Israeli troops from Palestinian population centres prior to elections was one of the most difficult issues in Israeli-PLO negotiations.

Under the Declaration of Principles on autonomy signed in September 1993, Israel must pull back its troops from built-up Palestinian areas on the West Bank by the eve of elections.

But Israel is increasingly worried about the security of 120 Jewish settlers in the West Bank after a spate of attacks by Palestinian Islamic hardliners.

The Israeli army is pressing for a delay in redeployment, warning that a pull-back will multiply the flashpoints between the Palestinians and settlers.

Sha'th said the talks would be held at two simultaneous levels, one dealing with elections and the other with redeployment.

Another disputed issue in negotiations is the size and function of the elected self-rule council.

The Palestinians demand a parliament-style body of 100 members with legislative power, while Israel wants it to be smaller with executive functions only.

Musa, Peres Discuss Syrian Track, NPT

TA0512060794 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500
GMT 5 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres met with his Egyptian counterpart 'Amr Musa in Budapest last night, and a spokeswoman for Peres said

the meeting was a good and important one. She said the two men had a private dinner for about two hours and discussed a range of issues.

'Amr Musa reported to Peres on last week's meeting between Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad in Damascus. He said al-Asad is not prepared to sign a peace treaty with Israel of the kind reached with Jordan.

The Egyptian foreign minister said it would be a disaster for Israel to try to amend the Oslo accord. He also denied reports that Egypt is demanding that the multinational force in the Sinai be removed or cut.

And finally, 'Amr Musa said he hoped the dispute between Egypt and Israel over the signing of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty would be resolved quietly. Peres and the Egyptian foreign minister are due to meet again today.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab League Chief on Peace, Boycott, Jerusalem

NC0312202894 London MBC Television in Arabic 1705
GMT 3 Dec 94

[Interview with Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Isamat 'Abd-al-Majid by 'Irfan Nizam-al-Din in London; date not given; from the "Face to Face With the Age" program—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Nizam-al-Din] There is another Arab issue, and based on what we have read about your visit to Britain we have learned that you are carrying a proposal, draft project, or mediation to resolve the Libya problem, the Lockerbie issue. Is this true, and what have been the results?

['Abd-al-Majid] Of course, there has been a decision issued by the Arab League and the seven-member committee made up of the foreign ministers of the seven countries to attempt to convince primarily the British and American sides, and the French side too, to accept the Arab proposal of a Scottish court, Scottish judiciary, and Scottish law. The principles of international law stipulate that the law of the place where the crime takes place is the one that applies to the trials. Therefore, here we should apply the Scottish law because the incident took place in Scotland. [passage omitted]

[Nizam-al-Din] Do you believe the crisis is going to be escalated soon or deadlocked?

['Abd-al-Majid] Let me just say that it is now in a state of lull. Douglas Hogg is coming to visit the region and I will meet with him in Cairo next week. I am exaggerating the possibility of a solution, but at least we can reveal the Libyan and Arab viewpoint to him because the issue has become an Arab issue, not only a Libyan one. [passage omitted]

[Nizam-al-Din] There is a sensitive Arab issue which, as usual, has divided ranks. The Arabs are now divided regarding the issue of the boycott. What is the Arab League's official stance on this matter and when will the boycott be lifted for good?

[Abd-al-Majid] Let me be clear about this matter. The direct boycott of Israel will continue as long as there is a state of war between Israel and the Arab countries. If the state of war ends by signing a peace agreement, as was the case with Egypt and recently with Jordan, the direct boycott will be lifted. The secondary and tertiary boycotts are not with Israel. They are with non-Israeli companies [that deal with Israel] and it is within the power of each state to lift them if it wants to do that. Therefore, this is a sovereign decision. But the first kind of boycott, which is the direct boycott, the most dangerous one, must be lifted through an Arab League decision. When there is peace, the Arab League will then make a decision to lift the boycott.

[Nizam-al-Din] You mean when peace is established on all tracks?

[Abd-al-Majid] On all tracks.

[Nizam-al-Din] You have personally been criticized for having attended the economic summit in Casablanca. What is your answer to these criticisms?

[Abd-al-Majid] I am very happy to have attended the summit. Had I not gone, I would have felt that the picture was incomplete before me. Of course, I realized these points when I received the invitation and happened to be abroad. I say that I went to the summit because I very clearly discussed our stance on the process of economic cooperation. Perhaps you heard me when I said that economy and politics are two sides of the same coin.

[Nizam-al-Din] And that we should not put the wheel....

[Abd-al-Majid, interrupting] And that we should not put the cart before the horse.

[Nizam-al-Din] Yes, yes, I was there.

[Abd-al-Majid] This was the message, and I believe that I expressed a common Arab viewpoint. We are not opposed to peace. I declare this very frankly. We are not afraid of a Middle Eastern market. I said this yesterday in my speech in (Shatten) House. I say that peace is a legitimate demand of ours. But peace does not mean that any country can impose its hegemony on the Arab world. If Israel believes it can do this, the 4 million Israelis will not be able to impose their hegemony on 230 million Arabs. This is not possible. Let us have confidence in ourselves and our abilities. There is no need for us to throw ourselves at Israel, which is what has been happening, unfortunately.

[Nizam-al-Din] Did you meet with Shim'on Peres and Yitzhaq Rabin during the summit....

[Abd-al-Majid, interrupting] That did not happen. No, no. [passage omitted]

[Nizam-al-Din] Before we conclude our meeting, I would like your opinion on the issue of Jerusalem in your capacity as Arab League secretary general and an important Arab figure. There are many things being said. In your opinion, how can the issue of Jerusalem be resolved?

[Abd-al-Majid] The issue of Jerusalem is one that is the responsibility of every Arab and Muslim. It will remain a pending matter on our list of responsibilities and that of future generations, if it is not resolved now. It must return to the Arab and Islamic home. This is something that depends on us, the Islamic world, and our will. No right is lost as long as someone is demanding it. [passage omitted]

Islamic Affairs

ICO Secretary General Holds Press Conference

LD0412203894 Riyadh SPA in English 1936 GMT
4 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Jeddah, Dec 4, SPA—Secretary General of the Organization of the Islamic Conference [ICO] Dr. Hamid Algabid has paid rich tributes to custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz for the kind care being given to the general secretariat of the ICO and its activities and for great concern on the affairs of Islam and Muslims.

Dr. Algabid made the remarks during a press conference he held here on Sunday to shed light on the functions of the Islamic summit to be held in Casablanca, Morocco on December 13-14 which will be preceded by a preparatory meeting to be held by the ICO's foreign ministers on December 10-11. He also cited with appreciation the kind gesture of King al-Hassan of Morocco for hosting the meetings.

He said the General Secretariat of the ICO and the Moroccan concerned bodies have taken necessary measures to ensure successful meetings in Casablanca. He also spotlight the paramount importance acquires by the summit conference which coincides with the 25th anniversary of the establishment of the ICO during the first Islamic summit in Morocco in 1969.

Referring to the topics to be discussed by the leaders of the Islamic countries, Dr. Algabid said the agenda includes the peace process in the Middle East, the tragic situation of the Bosnian people, civil wars in Afghanistan and Somalia, situation of the Islamic minorities worldwide besides a number of economic, cultural, social and information issues.

He thanked the Senegalese President Abdou Diouf for the excellent efforts he made while chairing the Islamic group since the 6th Islamic summit held in Dakar two years ago.

He explained the positive role undertaken by the ICO and affiliated bodies to defend Islam and Moslems amid the fierce anti-Islamic campaign being launched by some hostile parties and said the efforts of the ICO should be supported by official and individual efforts of Islamic world. He cited the great concern being given by the ICO for the question of al-Quds [Jerusalem] holy city through a special ICO's committee assigned for the purpose under the chairmanship of King al-Hassan.

Dr. Algabid smashed the negative position of the international community on the plight being sustained by the Moslem population of Bosnia-Herzegovina and called the Islamic states and organization to mobilize all possible moral and material efforts to support the Bosnian and press for lifting the arms embargo imposed on the Islamic republic.

He also called for implementation of the international resolutions on Kashmir and to enable the Kashmiri people of their legitimate right of self-determination.

Dr. Algabid also shed light on a number of issues concerning the Islamic world and said the stage had not been set yet for the establishment of an Islamic court of justice and called on all member states who have not endorsed the plan to do so as soon as possible. He predicted that all ICO's member states would attend the summit in Casablanca on the level of heads of states or their representatives. He welcomed the Iraqi recognition of Kuwait as an important step, but added that Iraq should make other positive steps concerning the detainees and the money plundered for Kuwait.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Said To Meet With Jordan's King Husayn
JN0212185394 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 2 Dec 94

[Report by Basim Abu-Sumayyah in the occupied territories]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] It has been learned from a responsible Palestinian source that a summit meeting will be held in Amman soon between Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat and Jordanian King Husayn. This is the first meeting between the two leaders since the Palestinian Authority assumed responsibility for the Gaza Strip and Jericho.

The source said that a known Palestinian businessman, whose name he did not mention, has carried out the role of mediator over the past week between the Palestinian and Jordanian leaders and that Palestinian leader Faysal al-Husayni left for Amman yesterday to prepare for this summit which is being described as very important. [passage omitted]

Radio Confirms Meeting

JN0312185494 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1730 GMT 3 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] President Yasir 'Arafat will visit Jordan in the middle of next week, during which he will

sign four cooperation agreements in the fields of economy; land, air, and sea transport; international trade; and money and banking.

This will be the first visit 'Arafat has made to Amman since the establishment of the Palestinian National Authority in the Gaza Strip and Jericho.

'Arafat To Meet Christopher in Gaza 7 Dec

NC0412160294 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1455 GMT 4 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Gaza, 4 Dec (MENA)—MENA has learned that U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher will meet with Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat in Gaza on 7 December during Christopher's tour of the city, which will last for a few hours.

President 'Arafat met today with Mr. Beckton [name as transliterated], the U.S. Consul General in Israel, and discussed with him the arrangements for Christopher's visit to the self-rule area in Gaza, the current situation, and the results of the donor states' meeting in Brussels. A Palestinian source has stated that President 'Arafat asked the U.S. official to convey a message to U.S. President Bill Clinton.

'Arafat: Palestinians Have Paid Price for Peace

LD0512125294 Stockholm Sveriges Radio Network in Swedish 1130 GMT 5 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] On Saturday [10 December] PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat will be one of the recipients of the Nobel Peace Prize in Oslo, and the next day he will arrive in Sweden. 'Arafat now says that he is expecting much from Sweden. Our correspondent Cecilia Udden met him and former Foreign Minister Sten Andersson in Gaza last night.

[Begin recording] [Arafat, in English] And I have to say, we are the only partner who are paying the price of the peace, while the other partners are receiving the prize for peace.

[Udden] We are the only partner who has had to pay the price for peace while the others are receiving the peace prize, 'Arafat said four days before he himself will be sharing the Nobel Peace Prize with Shim'on Peres and Yitzhaq Rabin. 'Arafat will also be coming to Stockholm, even though that visit has led to a diplomatic row following 'Arafat's announcement late last night that he would not be able to attend the dinner planned by the Swedish Government for 200 invited guests on 12 December. I must leave for Casablanca that day, 'Arafat said. However, he does expect much from Sweden. We need all of our friends, he says.

[Arafat, in English] We are saying that we are in need of all our friends, to move forward, to protect the peace of the [here follows 14-second break in reception] [end recording]

[passage omitted]

'Arafat Receives U.S. Consul, Sends Message

JN0412175094 *Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic*
1515 GMT 4 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] His Excellency President Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee and head of the Palestinian National Authority, received U.S. Consul General Edward Abington at noon today.

Talks dealt with the recent developments of the peace process and the results of the donor states conference recently held in Brussels. The president requested the U.S. consul general to convey a message to U.S. President Bill Clinton in reply to the latter's message which was sent last week.

'Arafat Receives Jerusalem Orthodox Club Members

JN0412175694 *Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic*
1515 GMT 4 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] President Yasir 'Arafat has received a delegation representing the Orthodox Club in Jerusalem. He expressed happiness over their visit and told the delegation: Our joint task is to entrench our roots in the Palestinian land, particularly in Jerusalem, because our coming battle will be over Jerusalem.

The president added: We should be aware of the conspiracy concocted against Jerusalem; namely, vacating Jerusalem and turning our mosques and churches into museums. This requires further entrenchment and adherence to the land as well as steadfastness. Jerusalem is the capital of the coming Palestinian state.

His excellency called on the audience to be cohesive on all levels, so we can preserve our presence and this civilized, religious, and pan-Arab heritage in Jerusalem. He said: We in the National Authority always give priority to Jerusalem. I have great confidence in you. We should achieve our objectives and preserve this presence in our Jerusalem, the holiest city.

'Arafat: 'Black Friday' Not To Return

JN0312090994 *Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic*
0600 GMT 3 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] His Excellency President Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee and head of the Palestinian National Authority, has said that Black Friday will not return and will not be repeated, God willing, because our people are greater than the conspirators. This came in a speech in a celebration held yesterday at Rashad al-Shawwa Center on the occasion of medical day. His excellency announced his agreement on the launching of the unionist march for pharmacists, nurses, doctors, and all other specialists as of the beginning of next year after implementing the unions law.

His excellency appealed to the audience to exert more efforts to maintain Palestinian national unity. President Yasir 'Arafat said the Palestinian dream, which many wagered would not materialize, is becoming true on the first liberated Palestinian territory. He added that a Palestinian child will raise our flag over the walls of Jerusalem, the capital of the independent Palestinian state, God willing.

PA Council of Ministers Discusses Issues

JN0312165794 *Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic*
1515 GMT 3 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The Council of Ministers of the National Authority [NA; Palestinian Authority, PA] today held its weekly meeting under President Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee and NA head. The council discussed several political, economic, and administrative issues.

The council called for implementing the second stage of the peace agreement regarding the redeployment of the Israeli occupation forces, preparing for legislative elections, the reexamining of laws, and the transfer of powers to the NA.

The council said that this issue occupies an important position among the NA's tasks. Based on this, it decided to reestablish a committee to follow up the negotiations in a way that reinforces the role of the Palestinian negotiators.

The council also discussed the results of the Brussels meeting with the donor states, stressing that what has been agreed upon with the donor states will guarantee the fulfillment of all obligations and will enable the NA to overcome all the obstacles facing it in order to pursue the march of construction.

The council expressed its appreciation for the positive developments in the security situation and listened to a report from President Yasir 'Arafat on the recent meetings he has held to bolster the unity of Palestinian ranks and to guarantee the security and stability of the society within the framework of pluralism and democracy.

The council reviewed a number of urgent economic issues and the NA duties, particularly following the transfer of tax and health powers.

The council expressed its confidence that the authority's institutions will be able to perform their duties and noted that guaranteeing success in this regard is the duty of all classes and forces of the Palestinian society.

The council also discussed the issue of encroachment on the state land and adopted several decisions to protect property, public rights, and the interests of citizens within the framework of the law.

The council formed several ministerial committees to discuss issues related to taxes and employees' salaries.

'Urayqat: Elections Within 2 Months of Agreement

TA0412074794 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 4 Dec 94

[Report by Yoni Ben-Menahem]

[FBIS Translated Text] Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, the official in charge of elections in the Palestinian Authority [PA], says that the Palestinians have completed their preparations for elections, and that the moment an agreement is signed with Israel on the issue, the Palestinians can hold the elections within two months.

The PA decided at its weekly meeting last night to establish two committees prior to the negotiations, which begin in Cairo Tuesday [6 December]. One committee, headed by Dr. Nabil Sha'th, will deal with IDF [Israel Defense Forces] redeployment in the West Bank and the nature of the interim stage. The other committee, which will deal with the elections issue, will continue to be headed by Dr. 'Urayqat. The PA rejected outright the idea of holding elections without an IDF withdrawal from the population centers in the West Bank.

[Begin 'Urayqat recording, in English] As far as we have been hearing from the Israeli side, and I hope it is only rumors, about the concept of speedy deployment or temporarily deployment for three days. I think they are not realistic solutions. If the redeployment will not take place, it means elections will not be able to take place. [end recording]

[Ben-Menahem translates the above and continues] 'Urayqat said that without elections there will be no peace process.

Yasir 'Arafat last night revived the supreme committee for negotiations with Israel formerly headed by Abu-Mazin [Mahmud 'Abbas]. Abu Mazin, who is in dispute with 'Arafat, no longer participates in the negotiations with Israel, and the committee will now be headed by Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, the official in charge of information and culture in the PA. Other committee members are Abu-'Ala [Ahmad Quray], Furayh Abu-Middayn, Nabil Sha'th, and Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat. They are the Palestinian team which in the coming months will negotiate the sensitive and important aspect of the Oslo agreement which will decide the fate of Judea and Samaria.

PA Fears Israelis May Avoid Implementing Agreement

TA0512065094 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 5 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The Palestinians have expressed fear that the government is preparing Israeli public opinion for the nonimplementation of the second stage of the Oslo Agreement in Judea and Samaria. This was stated by Sa'ib 'Urayqat, a member of the Palestinian Authority [PA]. PA officials were angered and concerned

by statements made by Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and security officials at yesterday's cabinet session. A senior Palestinian source told our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem that although the Palestinians were not happy with the Oslo Agreement, they were committed to its full implementation.

Editorial Urges Israel To Implement Agreements

TA0212155694 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 1 Dec 94 p 13

[Editorial: "What Is Required Is the Implementation of the Agreements"]

[FBIS Translated Text] If the idea of temporarily withdrawing Israeli forces from Palestinian towns and population centers in preparation for conducting Palestinian elections has aroused the astonishment of the Israeli media more than anyone else, what can we say about this new idea that has been put forward by some Israeli political circles? The idea requires the Palestinian side to conduct elections without the Israeli forces' evacuating large Palestinian towns.

Many neutral political observers consider this idea to be no more than a trial balloon in order to gauge both Palestinian and Israeli reaction, because there is no possibility at all that this idea will be accepted either by the Palestinians or the international community. What sort of elections can there be when they are held under an Israeli military presence? And what kind of freedom will the Palestinian residents exercise in discharging their voting and nominating right?

The Oslo accord provided for taking specific steps at a specific time, namely, within a timetable signed by Israel for the transfer of powers to the Palestinian Authority. Elections were supposed to be held last month; however, nothing of the sort has happened yet, despite the numerous rounds of talks that were held in Cairo at the beginning of last month. Those talks collided with outdated Israeli positions even when the case concerned routine matters. This made observers wonder how Israeli positions will develop when sensitive and complex issues are placed on the negotiating table, such as the exercise by Jerusalemite Palestinians of their electoral rights and the number of members of the elected legislative council. Israel believes that this council should be merely administrative and that its members should not exceed 25.

The Palestinians, in particular, and the international community, in general, want Israel to honor the agreements that it signed and carry out the measures specified in the timetable without delay, because those agreements are not a means for testing Palestinian intentions and capabilities as much as they constitute a chance for achieving peace and promoting regional stability. Certainly, the positive aspects of peace will benefit all the region's peoples, not only the Palestinians. Hence, it is necessary to deal with the peace process and implement its steps with the utmost seriousness and objectivity and the required credibility.

Al-Husayni on Weapons, Elections, Other Issues
JN0212172994 Paris AL-WATAN AL-ARABI in Arabic
2 Dec 95 pp 14, 15

[Interview with Faysal al-Husayni, PA minister in charge of the Jerusalem affairs, by Mufid 'Abd-al-Rahman in Washington; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] ['Abd-al-Rahman] I take it then that the PA [Palestinian Authority] is disposed to instituting a ban on the carrying of arms not licensed by the PA?

[Al-Husayni] Exactly. That's what we are trying to work out an acceptable formula for. Unless one can come up with sufficient grounds for carrying weapons, no license will be issued. Although no raids are contemplated to search for and confiscate weapons, compliance will, hopefully, be universal.

['Abd-al-Rahman] Is this to say that there will be a blanket application of this rule? Will it be enforced against Fatah supporters just as rigorously as against the Islamic groups?

[Al-Husayni] Absolutely. There will be no exceptions. I personally am opposed to all manner of arms displays, whether these are for or against the PA. Only PA personnel must be allowed to carry weapons for the conduct of their security duties. Whatever weapons are kept by civilians, their use must be regulated so that they work for us rather than as an instrument of internal Palestinian pressure against the PA. The rules must apply equally to the PA's supporters and opponents. [passage omitted]

['Abd-al-Rahman] But some, both in the occupied territories and in the areas under the PA's control, are calling the PA's legitimacy into question, arguing that it is an unelected body. When, do you think, will you hold elections to deflect this kind of criticism?

[Al-Husayni] Not surprisingly, Israel has been procrastinating over the elections, since they would involve a redeployment of Israeli troops in certain areas and withdrawal from others. Also, Israel wants the elections postponed so that it will not have to face the issue of Jerusalem. For us, the elections top the agenda of issues that remain to be addressed in the interim stage, including the Israeli withdrawal. I don't know if there has been any shift in the Israeli position in light of the recent Gaza incidents. Failure to hold the elections will only undermine the PA. If Rabin thinks that the failure of the political process will spell his personal and his party's failure and subsequently power passing to the Israeli right, he may as well start the immediate fulfillment of the agreement. Otherwise, the agreement will collapse with potentially dire consequences.

['Abd-al-Rahman] Given that sufficient support is forthcoming from the donor nations, Yasir 'Arafat, maintains Warren Christopher, can bring things under control in

the PA's areas. Do you agree? Is it, in your opinion, just a matter of money, and that should it become available, Islamic opposition will disappear?

[Al-Husayni] It is important that we improve our economic conditions so that we may become self-reliant and less dependent on Israel's job market. More important, we must work toward a successful fulfillment of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement. This calls for a redeployment of Israeli troops in the rest of the occupied territories, holding elections, and negotiating on the final status. Short of these steps, the entire peace process will be at stake.

['Abd-al-Rahman] You have met with U.S. officials over the past two days. How did the Americans react to last Friday's incidents in Gaza? Have you reached any agreement with them as to what they may do in the way of support for the PA in its present difficulties?

[Al-Husayni] My talks with the Americans addressed two areas, the economy and security. We made it clear that there can be no real security in the absence of complete control on the ground and that there can be no real control without complete authority. Accordingly, Israel can best help us by pulling out its troops from the occupied Arab territories, disbanding settlements in Gaza, and staying away from acting as our custodian. On the economic front, I have no doubt that money transfers from the donor nations and the World Bank would go a long way toward laying the groundwork for a successful investment in the Palestinian territories. As for security, this will remain shaky as long as the agreement with Israel is not observed, specifically with regard to free and democratic elections.

['Abd-al-Rahman] Did the Americans display any understanding of these Palestinian positions?

[Al-Husayni] Yes, they did. I think we have given adequate answers to the questions asked by the Americans. We expect to see some kind of development in the U.S. policy toward us before long.

['Abd-al-Rahman] What do you mean by some kind of development in the U.S. policy toward the Palestinians?

[Al-Husayni] It may be premature for me to say anything further just now.

['Abd-al-Rahman] Yasir 'Arafat reportedly requested that he visit Washington, but, to our knowledge, he could not be squeezed into President Clinton's busy schedule. Is such a visit likely within the next few days?

[Al-Husayni] I do not think the time is right for such a visit. It would have come immediately before the holiday season in the United States and immediately after the shift in the makeup of the American Congress. It takes time to learn how to handle the new forces running the Congress. If it is to be fruitful, a visit to Washington by 'Arafat must be well prepared and planned.

[Abd-al-Rahman] So the visit in principle is in the cards, and it is only a question of the right preparations at your end?

[Al-Husayni] It is, and we are in touch over the proper arrangements.

[Abd-al-Rahman] Speaking about the recent change in the American Congress, how did the PA greet the news of the elections that saw the Republicans gain control of both houses for the first time in 40 years?

[Al-Husayni] You know that the outgoing Congress was not particularly friendly toward us and had taken many measures contrary to our ambitions as a Palestinian people or the PLO. The change brought about by the elections opens up an opportunity for us to try to use it for our own good. Not that we are sure to succeed there.

[Abd-al-Rahman] Did you initiate any kind of dialogue with the new Republican leadership in the Congress as Israel's Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin did when he was in Washington last week?

[Al-Husayni] We began some contacts, but I cannot say that they have served their purpose. Unfortunately for me, my presence in Washington coincided with the Thanksgiving day. There were not many congressmen around for me to meet. Other Palestinian officials, however, are making such contacts.

Orient House Clarifies al-Husayni Remarks

JN0412140794 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1057
GMT 4 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Orient House issued a statement this morning, clarifying the statements the Jordanian News Agency, PETRA, attributed to Faysal al-Husayni, and which were carried by AFP.

The statement said: Orient House press office would like to clarify that al-Husayni's statements were taken out of context and dealt with on a selective basis. Faysal al-Husayni's stand regarding the continuation of the Jordanian role in preserving the holy places is constant and clear. This stand is that the Palestinians are not against the continuation of this role at the present time, provided that it is carried out in coordination with the Palestinian Authority, and not with Israel. The statement was signed by Hatim 'Abd-al-Qadir, director of the press office at Orient House.

Faysal al-Husayni Interviewed on Jordan Visit

JN0412184994 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic
1545 GMT 4 Dec 94

["Text" of interview with Faysal al-Husayni, chief of the Palestinian negotiating team, by Yusuf al-Qazzaz on 4 December; place not given—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [al-Qazzaz] Dear listeners: Faysal al-Husayni, a well-known nationalist Palestinian

figure and head of the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks, has been in Amman where he met with senior Jordanian officials. Jerusalem topped the agenda of the talks between Faysal al-Husayni and the Jordanian officials in Amman. Brother Faysal al-Husayni, you are welcome on the Voice of Palestine.

[Al-Husayni] You are welcome.

[Al-Qazzaz] What is your assessment of the talks with the Jordanian brothers and what were the most important topics that were discussed, in addition to the issue of Jerusalem?

[Al-Husayni] In fact, this meeting was a continuation of the meetings that have always taken place. The issue of Jerusalem has always been at the top of these talks. In fact, these visits and meetings aimed at reaching the required coordination to serve the interests of both parties and the higher Palestinian interests which we seek to be in harmony with our Arab march.

In this meeting, we discussed many issues. However, the main issue was Jerusalem and the holy places. We agreed that there should be coordination and understanding between the Palestinians and Jordanians. If these deep-rooted and growing relations are not properly taken care of and if there is no coordination, these relations will become mixed up and lack real coordination, and consequently, we will reach a situation which is rejected by us, as well as by the Jordanian brothers. Therefore, coordination is very important.

Regarding the Islamic holy places in Jerusalem, we know full well that the holy places have been placed under Jordanian administrative guardianship. This situation has been recognized and accepted by Israel since 1967. We are not interested now in changing this situation. We agreed to discuss the status of Jerusalem with Israel in the second stage. We are not ready to open this file before the beginning of the official talks. Therefore, we believe that Jordan considers the holy places a trust that will be turned over to the Palestinians when they become capable of shouldering this responsibility. We agreed to maintain the situation as it is and to hold further coordination so that we will not make any wrong moves.

[Al-Qazzaz] Mr. Faysal al-Husayni, the Jordanian Government and senior Jordanian officials, particularly His Highness Crown Prince Hasan, have decided the Jerusalem issue in the stands declared recently and in the way the official and semi-official Jordanian media are dealing with this issue. Why, then, would there be any sensitivities toward the Jordanian stand?

[Al-Husayni] The matter is not one of sensitivities toward the Jordanian stand. However, in the absence of coordination, even the steps that are taken with good intentions might be misinterpreted by this or that party.

Therefore, I believe that both parties have good intentions and that both parties converge on the objectives,

analyses and understanding of things. However, regrettably we still lack integrated coordination. So far, we do not have a mechanism for coordination on the required level that can face all the dangers, which surround us and which are originated by third parties, not by the Palestinians or Jordanians.

[Al-Qazzaz] Do you expect the upcoming visit of President Yasir 'Arafat and his talks with the Jordanian officials to deal with upgrading the level of coordination between the two sides?

[Al-Husayni] Yes, I think this is what is needed, and it is time that this visit to Jordan is not merely a protocol visit for making statements to reassure people, but should be of a practical nature. This means that this delegation [accompanying 'Arafat] should include high-ranking political members, political executives, and technocrats. The activity of this delegation should continue even after the return of brother Abu-'Ammar ['Arafat] to Palestine, and so that we will be able to draw a new situation, new lines, and coordination at the required level. We have several issues to tackle: The bridges, customs, goods imported from Jordan, and goods that should be exported to Jordan. All these issues represent delicate Palestinian interests that should be discussed immediately.

[Al-Qazzaz] Mr. Faysal al-Husayni, head of the Palestinian team to the peace negotiations, on the occasion of your presence at the premises of the Voice of Palestine and in light of your work at Orient House, have the Israelis eased the way in which they deal with Orient House?

[Al-Husayni] In fact, we can say that at present we are trying to minimize the chances of confrontation and to avoid that we and the other party revolve in statements, counter statements, and reactions so that we will be able to continue our work without getting engaged in battles that are currently unnecessary. I believe that to a certain extent, there are Israeli officials who want the same. However, from time to time newspapers, especially those of the Israeli opposition, raise new problems that are sometimes positively received by some elements within the Israeli authority. However, I can say that the main task of Orient House continues, and we are confident that nothing will prevent us from doing our duty toward the peace process and Jerusalem.

[Al-Qazzaz] But, brother Faysal, it is noted that there is some insistence by some Europeans, and even non-Europeans, to visit Orient House and to consider it an official Palestinian establishment. For example, Turkish Prime Minister Tansu Ciller insisted on visiting you at Orient House.

[Al-Husayni] In fact, since the beginning of the work at Orient House, and I can say since the [early] 1990's, new principles began to appear. These are that any official visitor to this region should meet with the Palestinians. In the past, we used to meet these visitors in our houses

or hotels. Since 1992, a new principle was set, which is that the meeting be held at Orient House. These meetings began with the visit of the Portuguese prime minister to Orient House. Orient House means, first, that the political process is continuing, and it is the headquarters of the Palestinian team to the peace conference and the political negotiations. Second, it also means that the subject of Jerusalem continues to be an open file, and that it was not decisively ended in the way Israel wants by making East Jerusalem part of the Israeli capital. This is the international position, and because countries adopt such position, then they have to deal with Orient House within this concept.

[Al-Qazzaz] Let's return to your visit to Jordan. Do you consider it a successful visit?

[Al-Husayni] Yes, I think that within the limits of the tasks of the visit, it was a successful visit, and we hope to see the fruits very soon, God willing.

'Abd-al-Shafi on Peace Process, 'Arafat

TA0212181794 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV (SHABAT supplement) in Hebrew 2 Dec 94 pp 8, 9

[Interview with Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, former head of the Palestinian delegation to negotiations with Israel, by correspondent Nadav Ha'etzni; place and date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] The buds of an initiative that might turn into a significant threat to Yasir 'Arafat's rule appeared this week. Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, former head of the Palestinian delegation to the negotiations with Israel, announced that he was contemplating the establishment of a new organization designed "to promote the principles of democracy in Palestinian society" and prepare itself for the scheduled elections to the Palestinian Authority [PA].

The threat posed by the new organization stems from the vulnerable position of the PLO leader and the vast prestige enjoyed by the Gazan physician. In fact, since the days of the Palestinian delegation, particularly after he quit the delegation and slammed the door on the Oslo process, 'Abd-al-Shafi's prestige transcended political borders. He is considered a tough ideologue and a man of honor whose support and integrity cannot be bought off. Compared with the PA, such attributes are important due to their rareness.

'Abd-al-Shafi's initiative is apparently designed to unite all nonfundamentalist opposition groups, but many believe it could even provide him with a promising future. Despite his "red" past, 'Abd-al-Shafi is also acceptable to the moderate section of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and to many Fatah supporters. As the PA's condition worsens, the physician will manage to rally supporters from all factions around him. Although he does not condone terror attacks such as the bus bombing in Tel Aviv, he is definitely in favor of pursuing "the armed struggle" against Israeli soldiers.

Although he does not propose to abandon the Oslo process at once, he does not give it any chance, despite the money injected by the donor countries unless, the United Nations intervenes firmly, twists Israel's arm, forcefully takes Jerusalem from it, uproots the settlements, and immediately establishes a Palestinian state. Otherwise, we will not have peace but rather destruction and ruination.

"At the moment, most Palestinians do not see elements ensuring the attainment of their national aspirations in the peace process," Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi asserts. "The truth is that a majority has emerged against 'Arafat's rule, and you Israelis are responsible for it. You could have helped 'Arafat by committing yourselves to include the United Nations in the process, which would have given more prominence to the principles of peace, namely, justice and fairness."

[Ha'etzni] How can you level such accusations against the Israeli Government, particularly this week when Shim'on Peres has been traipsing around the world, neglecting Jewish fund-raising and devoting all his efforts to raising funds for you, the residents of Gaza?

['Abd-al-Shafi] True, we need money, but money is not a substitute and will never substitute political issues. We cannot take the Oslo process as the only way to make peace. The issue of peace cannot be left only in the hands of Israel and the Palestinians. That is not the way to do it. I say that there is asymmetry in the balance of power between you and us. You will not give us what is needed to attain peace, but you will insist on issues that will prevent peace because you hold the power. The problem is that Israel wants an agreement on its own conditions, and it can get away with it due to its military power, especially because it is supported by the United States.

That is why a third party, the United Nations, must come into the picture. The solution must be left to the United Nations, whose decision will be final. The problem is that the Security Council is controlled by the United States and that since its foundation Israel has managed not to abide by its resolutions and has gotten away with it.

[Ha'etzni] What are the issues you think are vital to making peace? Are the far-reaching concessions made by Israel so far not enough?

['Abd-al-Shafi] In principle, there is a constant contradiction between what happens in the field and the talk about peace. Peace can only be based on mutual justice and fairness. In the field, however, we see Israel's actions in Jerusalem and outside it, as well as the building of settlements and their continued existence. We have always said that the settlements are an obstacle to peace, and that is the truth.

[Ha'etzni] When you talk about the settlements, are you also referring to what Israel has built in those parts of Jerusalem that came into our hands in 1967?

['Abd-al-Shafi] Yes, when I speak about the settlements I am also referring to Jerusalem. East Jerusalem is occupied territory.

[Ha'etzni] 'Arafat, al-Husayni, and their colleagues make similar pronouncements, and yet you criticize them regardless.

['Abd-al-Shafi] The difference between me and them is that I believe it is imperative that the PA, which is engaged in negotiations with Israel, state openly that Israel's actions constitute a violation of the Oslo agreement. Nowhere in the agreement is it written that Israel may go ahead with the settlement process within Jerusalem or outside it. The fact that the agreement states that the issue will be discussed in the second phase of its implementation does not give Israel license to do as it pleases. This creates a conflict between Israel's talk about peace and the reality in the field.

[Ha'etzni] What should the Palestinian self-rule government do? Should it quit the talks as, say, Hamas proposes?

['Abd-al-Shafi] No, we are committed to remaining involved in the Oslo process, but we must come forth and resolutely say that Israel is violating the agreement.

[Ha'etzni] I hear more and more complaints from Palestinians that 'Arafat is a traitor, that he has become like General Lahd, and that all he does today is to defend Israel's security. Do you share those allegations?

['Abd-al-Shafi] I disagree that 'Arafat is a traitor, but as people grow more disenchanted with the process and see it losing credibility while 'Arafat is busy going after Palestinians engaged in resistance to the occupation, 'Arafat increasingly puts himself in such a position.

I do not think that 'Arafat is happy to be in such a position, but that is what people think, such as when they see Israel's illegitimate presence in Gaza. Therefore, when 'Arafat goes after people who act against this Israeli presence he casts himself in the role of a servant of Israel's security.

[Ha'etzni] From your pronouncements this week one could infer that you are in favor of pursuing the acts of violence and terror against Israel despite the Oslo agreements.

['Abd-al-Shafi] What I said is that people under occupation have the right to use all possible means to liberate themselves from the occupier, including a legitimate armed struggle. What I say is: The Israeli position, which is based on military power, is the indirect reason for the Palestinian military struggle, and what Hamas does is a partial response to the Israeli position.

[Ha'etzni] Does that include the bus bombing in Tel Aviv and the kidnapping and murder of Nahshon Wachsmann?

[Abd-al-Shafi] No, such things are illegitimate, but operations against military targets, including those in the autonomy area in Gaza, are definitely legitimate. One must come to grips with the reality that we achieved nothing in the Palestinian territory except when military force was used.

[Ha'etzni] Are you aware of how your words are going to be interpreted by the Israeli public, of the growing feeling that the agreement has been yielding the opposite results of what had been hoped for by its engineers?

[Abd-al-Shafi] I am aware of it, and I know that Rabin and Peres have problems with the Israeli public. After 27 years of telling people that this belongs to you and of building settlements, it is hard for them to say: Let us scrap it all. Therefore, a third party must intervene in the negotiations, come into the picture, and adopt key resolutions. We have already showed the flexibility we were asked to display, but you have not.

[Ha'etzni] Are you aware of the fact that some coalition circles in Israel lean toward stopping the process as a result of the violations by the Palestinian side?

[Abd-al-Shafi] I know about it, and I am not surprised. As I said, I am aware of the difficulties faced by Rabin and Peres, but it should be clear that stopping the process will destroy the little credibility it still enjoys among Palestinians. That will simply be destructive. If there is still some hope, what you describe will destroy everything.

[Ha'etzni] What is the nature of the political organization you are currently promoting?

[Abd-al-Shafi] It is still at the point of internal deliberations, and we have not yet made any final decisions. We are examining the establishment of a movement to build Palestinian democracy. Engaged in the dialogue are mainly independent men who do not belong to any of the longstanding organizations.

[Ha'etzni] What are the purposes of this organization?

[Abd-al-Shafi] We are committed to the basic principles of the PLO, self-definition, and so forth. In addition to that, such a movement would seek to promote democratic ideas among the Palestinians and perhaps even to prepare to run in the elections.

[Ha'etzni] What do you mean by "promoting democracy?"

[Abd-al-Shafi] I do not think democracy exists among the Palestinians. The PA definitely does not function democratically, at least not as long as elections have not been held.

[Ha'etzni] What is your reaction to the fact that the distribution of newspapers in the Gaza Strip was barred this week?

[Abd-al-Shafi] This is undoubtedly a serious matter which I denounce. It is a violation of the principles of human freedom.

[Ha'etzni] Is your initiative an attempt to create an alternative leadership to 'Arafat?

[Abd-al-Shafi] No, this was never one of our considerations. We want to help people promote a democratic tradition and to be involved in what is happening today.

[Ha'etzni] Are you aware of the fact that many see you as almost the sole alternative to 'Arafat's leadership?

[Abd-al-Shafi] I reject all speculation on the matter. I want 'Arafat to remain in his place. If there is a question of replacing him, then this should be done only through a democratic process. In addition to that, even if his replacement becomes a possibility, I do not know whether I will be free to do it.

[Ha'etzni] There has been growing criticism of the PA's performance: allegations of corruption, ineptitude, and despotism. What is your opinion?

[Abd-al-Shafi] I am not close enough to know the ins and outs of the issue. I hear about it just like you do, but if it is true then it is intolerable.

[Ha'etzni] Many talk about a civil war in the offing, especially in the aftermath of the massacre in Gaza two weeks ago. Is that also your impression?

[Abd-al-Shafi] In my opinion, Palestinian society is determined to abstain from any violence. What happened in the mosque was truly an extraordinary event. I do not know who is responsible for it, but I hope we will succeed in preventing all internal conflicts until we hold elections.

Negotiator Complains of Israeli Violations

TA0412160194 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 4 Dec 94 p A3

[Report by correspondent 'Amira Hess in the Gaza Strip]

[FBIS Translated Text] On the eve of resumption of negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians on the implementation of the second stage of the interim arrangement, Hassan 'Asfur, one of the architects of the Oslo Agreement, accuses the Israeli Government of double-talk and complains it is not really preparing for peace. "In the international media, Israeli representatives shed crocodile tears about the urgent need to send assistance and contributions to the Palestinians, while at the same time the policies of the Israeli Government merely raise additional economic and social obstacles," 'Asfur asserts.

'Asfur heads the Palestinian negotiating team on the implementation of the Cairo agreement, which is scheduled to leave for Egypt tomorrow in order to continue the talks.

'Asfur was asked to comment on a report published by HA'ARETZ at the beginning of the week regarding a prior understanding between the United States and Israel, which led Washington to ask the donor countries, the United Nations, and the World Bank to slow down the transfer of funds to the Palestinian Authority [PA].

Senior Israeli sources told HA'ARETZ correspondent Ori Nir that this was designed to pressure the PA to give Israel detailed lists with all the names of the Palestinian policemen and security personnel. 'Asfur confirmed that the delay in transferring the lists contravened the agreement. "Are we the only ones violating the agreement," 'Asfur asked? "There is a whole series of clauses in the agreement, some of which are essential and crucial for the future of the process, which Israel has failed to comply with, thus violating the agreement. This double-talk, making statements in our favor in the media while holding implementation up in practice, reflects a negative way of thinking which does not contribute to the peace process."

'Asfur enumerated a number of clauses in the agreement whose nonimplementation on the part of Israel was making things very difficult for the PA and undermining its standing in the eyes of the Palestinian public: Seven months after the transfer of authorities, arrangements for the safe passageway between the Gaza Strip and Jericho have not been completed. Therefore, every PA representative or employee, with the exception of a few VIPs, must submit a new request for an exit permit to the Israeli authorities every time they have to leave the Gaza Strip or Jericho on job-related duties.

This complicates the PA's daily operations a great deal, 'Asfur said. "Israel is continuing to raise impediments and hurdles to the free passage of goods to Israel, which sabotages any attempt by Gaza Strip residents to revive the economy. The export and import of goods through the Rafah checkpoint has still not been organized due to delays on the part of Israel." 'Asfur also complained that contrary to the agreement, the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] authorities in the Khan Yunus beach area abutting the Qatif Bloc, were limiting the free movement of Palestinian residents. The delay in the release of Palestinian prisoners from Israeli prisons, 'Asfur said, also constituted a breach of the agreement with the Palestinians.

'Asfur rejected Israeli contentions that all the holdups resulted from security concerns. "Israel itself cannot stop terrorist attacks like the murder in 'Afula," 'Asfur said. "It cannot always shift the responsibility to us while violating agreements on the passage of individuals and goods. We keep on explaining that our people are very nervous, that their lives are harder than ever before. These constant holdups are creating a bad atmosphere which has a negative impact on both our security and that of the Israelis."

As for the proposal to pull the IDF out of Palestinian population centers for three days during the elections, or

alternatively to go ahead with the elections without an IDF withdrawal, 'Asfur says: "We have only heard about these ideas through the media. Such proposals are a violation of the Declaration of Principles. If Israel wants to reopen the agreement it better realize that we will also come with new demands."

Security Aide: Hamas-Fatah 'Dialogue' Has Begun

MM0212144094 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 2 Dec 94 p 3

[Report by Salih Qallab: "Palestinian Security Official Confirms Formation of Fatah-Hamas Emergency Committee"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Amman, Gaza, news agencies—A senior Palestinian official has stressed that there are no longer any prisoners—neither from the Islamic Resistance Movement "Hamas" nor from the "Islamic Jihad" movement—in the Palestinian police prisons in Gaza. He pointed out that security conditions in the sector have improved substantially. However, he did not deny that the explosive elements are still there.

The security official said in a statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the Palestinian political leadership decided to release prisoners of the two movements and to hold a dialogue with them in order to contain any future misunderstanding.

He disclosed that this dialogue has actually begun between Fatah and Hamas. And that the two movements have formed a leading emergency committee to handle any new situation and to end all aspects of rivalry and mobilization, including the removal of the slogans written on the walls during the past critical stage.

The official said: The problem lies in the fact that some Hamas leaders are not adhering to the instructions of their local leaderships. Unfortunately, these tendencies are in control of the movement's military wing, which has a large number of hard-line young men rallying around it.

He pointed out that the Palestinian Authority is trying, despite the atmosphere prevailing over the past two weeks, to encourage the moderate tendency inside Hamas. This tendency acknowledges the need for the existence of one security body and the need to make the self-rule experiment in the Gaza Strip a success and to expand it to include the West Bank. [passage omitted]

Fatah, Hamas Form Investigation Committee

JN0212161694 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1515 GMT 2 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Nabil Abu-Rudaynah, spokesman for His Excellency President Yasir 'Arafat, has stated that the Fatah Movement has signed an agreement with Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement]

to set up a joint investigation committee with respect to the regrettable Friday [18 November] incidents.

Abu-Rudaynah added that this agreement was reached yesterday evening at a meeting His Excellency President 'Arafat held with Dr. Mahmud al-Zahhar, one of Hamas' leaders.

The agreement stipulates the establishment of an investigation committee under PLO Executive Committee Member Jamal al-Surani. The committee is comprised of eight members, three of which are from Fatah. They are al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim, secretary general of the Presidency, Hisham 'Abd-al-Raziq, and Housing Minister Dr. Zakariya al-Agha. The committee also has three Hamas members, including Dr. Mahmud al-Zahhar and Isma'il Haniyah, in addition to Dr. Ahmad al-Tibi, His Excellency President 'Arafat's political adviser, and Shaykh 'Abdallah Nimr Darwish, head of the Islamic Movement within the Green Line.

Committee To Hold 1st Meeting

JN0312093894 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic
0600 GMT 3 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Nabil Abu-Rudaynah, adviser to His Excellency President Yasir 'Arafat, has said a joint committee from Fatah and Hamas [the Islamic Resistance Movement] is scheduled to begin a meeting this evening to discuss all issues with the aim of preventing any faction from undermining national unity.

It has also been decided that a mediation committee will start its work. This committee, which is chaired by PLO Executive Committee member Jamal al-Surani, comprises Shaykh 'Abdallah Nimr Darwish, Dr. Ahmad al-Tibi, and Gaza personalities led by Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi.

Abu-Rudaynah added that within the framework of the good offices of national Palestinian personalities and members of the PLO Executive Committee, President Yasir 'Arafat received Ahmad al-Zahhar, Shaykh 'Abdallah Nimr Darwish, Shaykh Jum'ah al-Qassas, and Dr. Ahmad al-Tibi in the presence of Jamal al-Surani.

Hamas Spokesman Views 'Arafat, Gaza Incidents

JN0212175494 Amman AL-MAJD in Arabic 28 Nov 94
pp 1, 11

[Interview with Hamas spokesman Ibrahim Ghawshah by an unidentified AL-MAJD correspondent; place and date not given]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] [AL-MAJD] Through the pro-'Arafat Voice of Palestine, 'Arafat has leveled accusations at Iran, particularly Mohtashemi, and Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement]. He also referred to you in Amman in an attempt to reveal the dimensions of an alleged outside conspiracy. What is your comment?

[Ghawshah] I listened to the radio interview with 'Arafat in which he was eager to talk about everything except for answering one important question; namely, a logical explanation for the Palestine Mosque crime. 'Arafat is an expert in committing massacres and whitewashing them; the arenas in Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, Tunisia, and other countries are witnesses to this fact. It is the case of the pot calling the kettle black. This is exactly what was done by 'Arafat, who is supported by a foreign conspiracy, to liquidate the Palestine question.

This conspiracy is joined by the Zionist entity, the U.S. Administration, and some European states and Arab regimes. 'Arafat accused Iran in order to whitewash the crime and exploit the crusade and Zionist grudges against Iran by accusing it of terrorism and Islamic extremism. When accusing his opponents, 'Arafat employs everything, including taboos, family relations, insincerity, and the reiteration of a fabricated story. Among God's calamities meant to test the Palestinian people are two things: First, the Jewish occupation of Palestine; second, the suspect leadership of clowns. The Palestinian people deserve leadership that is better than this one.

[AL-MAJD] The U.S. secretary of health conveyed a U.S. message of support to 'Arafat. How do you view this fact in light of the massacres committed by 'Arafat in Gaza and 'Ayn al-Hulwah?

[Ghawshah] The U.S. Administration under Clinton, and the hypocritical European states, did not condemn or denounce the killing of 15 Palestinians and the wounding of 250 others in the Palestine Mosque massacre. What is important to them is 'Arafat's safety and the financial support for him.

There are many brokers for 'Arafat; namely, Clinton, Rabin, Peres, Mubarak, and the foreign ministers of France, Norway, Austria, and others. They link the safety of the so-called peace process to 'Arafat's personal safety. This clearly shoes the U.S. and European role that is totally biased toward the Zionists and their agents in the region. This role lacks objectivity, humaneness, or fairness regarding all that is linked to the Palestinian people's cause, the Arabs, or the Muslims.

[AL-MAJD] Shaykh 'Abdallah Nimr Darwish and Rabbi Fruqman [name as transliterated] called for coexistence and halting the killings between the Jews and Muslims. How do you view this call?

[Ghawshah] Islam does not call for attacking anyone unless he is an aggressor or has helped in an aggression. If then anyone transgresses the prohibition against you, transgress ye likewise against him. [Koranic verse] The Muslim Arab Palestinian people used to lead a safe and stable life in their homeland, and they did not attack anyone, including the Jews. This people, however, was surprised by the largest bloody Jewish onslaught which subjected the Palestinians to killings, destruction, and emigration from their holy land.

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We thus find it strange and dubious to call for coexistence between the killer and the killed, between the oppressor and the oppressed, and between the robber and the robbed. Regrettably, this call is in favor of the Jews' interest at the expense of the Muslims' interest. Shaykh 'Abdallah Darwish did not do well by joining this call. Likewise, he did not do well when he whitewashed 'Arafat and his authority regarding the Palestine Mosque's massacre. [passage omitted]

Hamas Spokesman Denies Secret Contacts With Israel

JN0412113994 Paris AL-MUHARRIR in Arabic 5 Dec 94 p 9

[Interview with Hamas spokesman Ibrahim Ghawshah by unidentified correspondent in Amman; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] [AL-MUHARRIR] In the aftermath of the Gaza massacre, 'Arafat accused you of receiving directions from abroad. What external parties did 'Arafat mean?

[Ghawshah] The Hamas Movement does not receive its directions from abroad. It has its own independent policy. As an Islamic Palestinian popular movement, its moves are governed by two principles: Islamic tenets and the Palestinian people's interests. These two principles dictate the movement's actions. As for claims that external parties are dictating the moves of the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], they are untrue. Nonetheless, there is no denying the fact that we maintain ties with several Arab and Muslim states. During our meetings with officials of these states, we raise the Palestine question as an Arab and Islamic issue. These states are required to support the Palestinian people.

This is our discourse, which has remained unchanged. As for 'Arafat, who receives his instructions from the Zionist entity, the United States, and some [Arab] regimes, we would like to tell him that those who live in glass houses should not throw stones at others. [passage omitted]

[AL-MUHARRIR] It is noteworthy that the grave developments of the internal struggle in Gaza have failed to bring about a solidification of the 10-faction opposition alliance, of which Hamas is a member. Do you agree that the reason for this is the assumption that this alliance has reached a dead end?

[Ghawshah] I do not agree with you on this. But, in an initial assessment, I can say that the foundations on which this alliance was based were not strong enough. We hoped that the 10-faction alliance would be more effective. As for 'Arafat, he has sought to weaken this alliance by hinting that he might allow some factions to make some gains. This has resulted in enfeebling the activities of these factions within the alliance, because these factions have begun to chase after mirages.

Nonetheless, coordination and cooperation between the opposition factions have been acceptable. The 'Arafat-ordered arrests have unified the positions of Hamas, Islamic Jihad, and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine. The media and political moves made by opposition factions abroad have also been good.

[AL-MUHARRIR] How true are the reports currently circulated among political circles to the effect that secret talks are under way between Hamas and Israel?

[Ghawshah] I can categorically deny that any talks were held between Hamas and the Zionist entity. However, I would like to make it clear that the Zionist entity had previously contacted Hamas leaders in jails through academics and officers. The Hamas brothers held in Zionist jails are powerless, because they are held in detention.

We within Hamas have officially made public our position in this regard. We have said that there can be no dialogue with the Zionist entity. This is because the PLO began its contacts with this entity by dialogue, which developed into secret negotiations, and then into public negotiations. These contacts have led to a recognition of the Zionist entity, and to a reconciliation with this entity.

As for the statements repeatedly made by Mordekhay Gur, Yosi Beilin, and others on the Zionist entity's willingness to engage in dialogue with Hamas, they are meant to create a split within the movement, particularly after they attempted to create the impression that there are moderates and hardliners within its ranks.

And here, permit me to affirm that the Hamas Movement is united, because it reflects an ideological, national, and political fabric that pursues Islamic tenets, which prohibit the abandonment of a single inch of Palestinian territory. Consequently, any dialogue with the Zionist enemy that provides for a recognition of this entity will run against the religious and ideological discourse the movement has promoted.

[AL-MUHARRIR] What are the objectives the Hamas Movement seeks to achieve through its recent operations? If the declared political objective of these operations is to force an Israeli withdrawal from Gaza settlements and the West Bank, what is your comment on the fact that the Israelis have asked 'Arafat to halt Hamas operations if their withdrawal is to become a reality?

[Ghawshah] I do not want to delve into verbal contradictions. But, what I would like to make clear is that realities contravene Israeli claims that the Israelis will not withdraw as long as military operations are maintained.

It is the operations carried out against the settlement of Netzarim, during which the Palestinian and Hamas flags were hoisted, which prompted some Israeli Government members to demand the evacuation of this settlement. It follows from this that the promotion and continued

enhancement of military operations will lead to the evacuation of the Gush Qatif settlement. The same holds true for the West Bank.

In a nutshell, our discourse is realistic and workable. But the problem is that the Palestinian Authority under Yasir 'Arafat seeks to halt the march of resistance, struggle, and jihad.

Islamic Jihad Leader on Iran, Islamic Movements
JN0212191894 Paris AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI in Arabic
2 Dec 94 p 27

[Interview With Shaykh As'ad Bayyud al-Tamimi, leader of the Islamic Jihad Movement-Bayt al-Maqdis, by unidentified correspondent in Amman; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Correspondent] What do you have to say to those who state that there is a relationship between the Islamic movements and international intelligence agencies?

[Al-Tamimi] At first, the United States was ready to encourage Islam to confront Communism. But now, its only concern is how to confront the Islamic resurgence. President Carter was the first President to order that this resurgence be studied and confronted. Now, all the intelligence agencies in the world cooperate against Islam.

[Correspondent] Carter issued these orders following the Iranian revolution. Do you not notice that there are many question marks about this revolution?

[Al-Tamimi] The Islamic Revolution in Iran has failed to convey its message to the world. It became isolated on the ideological level and has transformed its revolution into a Shiite revolution and not a comprehensive Islamic revolution.

[Correspondent] But it dealt a blow against U.S. interests and held the U.S. Embassy hostages?

[Al-Tamimi] There is no doubt that the U.S. hostage issue rubbed the American's nose in the dirt. However, I would like to say that in general the Iranian approach has not been successful.

[Correspondent] Has the West failed to contain Islam?

[Al-Tamimi] Yes, all its attempts have failed. Islam will inevitably prevail.

[Correspondent] How?

[Al-Tamimi] Islam will liberate Palestine, and every revolutionary Islamic movement takes as its slogan the liberation of Jerusalem and Palestine. If the Jews can reason, and they are people who do not do so, they would agree to live as citizens in the region, secure, as they have always been in this area, and abandon the question of sovereignty and the promised land.

[Correspondent] But there are many disagreements among the Islamic movements themselves. Does this not weaken them?

[Al-Tamimi] Of course, there are disagreements, but not everywhere.

[Correspondent] How?

[Al-Tamimi] Take Sudan, for example. The only adversary of the Islamic movement there is the non-Islamic opposition, or the opposition which has taken Islam as a cover such as the Sufi movements. In Algeria, there is the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS], which is a reform movement under Dr. Abbasi Madani and Ali Belhadj. Therefore, there is no fear over the spread of Islam.

[Correspondent] It is being said that you are the spiritual father of the Algerian Islamists. How true is this?

[Al-Tamimi] I do not claim this. But I had the honor of going to Algeria and addressing the masses with Madani and Belhadj. I addressed hundreds of thousands of Algerians at the Sports City in Algiers, and I recorded speeches on video cassettes and hundreds of thousands of these cassettes were distributed.

[Correspondent] Hundreds of thousands?

[Al-Tamimi] Yes, in many places. For your information, every Islamic home in Europe has this cassette. I have recordings of other speeches in Algeria. I had a great influence on the people there. I cooperated with them and I still do.

[Correspondent] What are the most prominent topics you discussed in your speeches there?

[Al-Tamimi] I asked the FIS and the Islamic movements there to show mercy and amity to the people, and not be harsh toward them. If they see a girl with her hair uncovered, they should cover it in an amicable manner. Islamic shari'a abhors violence and force. Islamic judgments and sentences should tackle people with leniency and in a courteous manner.

[Correspondent] But, what is taking place completely differs from what you say?

[Al-Tamimi] The media is controlled by the infidels, and not all that they report is true. Those who defend the present regime in Algeria defend infidelity, usury, adultery, theft, and fraud. They canceled the trust the people had placed in the FIS, which won 86 percent of the votes in the first round of the elections. Had the second round taken place, the FIS would have obtained 90 percent of the votes.

[Correspondent] You are speaking enthusiastically, as if the ruling system in Algeria will fall?

[Al-Tamimi] It will certainly fall.

[Correspondent] What will happen then?

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[Al-Tamimi] It will be followed by the greater Arab Maghreb, and probably Mali and Senegal.

[Correspondent] What about Egypt?

[Al-Tamimi] If Egypt falls, then the peaceful solutions would become residues of history, and Egypt would return to its natural position of leading the nation.

[Correspondent] You are dreaming, Shaykh.

[Al-Tamimi] Then let me dream.

[Correspondent] But don't you see that in Tunisia the Renaissance Movement is too weak to realize anything?

[Al-Tamimi] The situation in Tunisia is still delicate, but the Islamic tide is still moving.

[Correspondent] What are the links between Sudan and the terrorist movements?

[Al-Tamimi] This is a false charge. I visited Sudan and the training camps, and I only saw Sudanese there. I delivered a sermon and led them in prayers. However, Sudan is returning to Islam, and this is a charge for which they are punishing it.

[Correspondent] Can we say that an Islamic personality is testifying about what he saw?

[Al-Tamimi] You can say whatever you like.

[Correspondent] What is the role of [Hasan] al-Turabi [leader of the National Islamic Front] who is said to have links with the Islamic forces in the Arab world?

[Al-Tamimi] Al-Turabi is an Islamic intellectual who is concerned with the causes of Muslims. In his capacity as secretary general of the National Front, he should pay attention to the Islamic movements. As for direct links with these movements, this could be a rumor that is part of the war waged against Sudan.

[Correspondent] After Lebanon and Israel sign a peace treaty, what will happen to Hizballah?

[Al-Tamimi] Hizballah is an influential political and security force in Lebanon that has parliamentary members. I believe that Hizballah will continue to lead the Islamic trend, especially the Shiite one.

[Correspondent] Some opposition Palestinian parties say that you are loyal to Yasir 'Arafat. Why?

[Al-Tamimi] No, I have not been and will not be an 'Arafat loyalist. In the past, the Fatah Movement proposed that I work within its ranks, but I demanded that Fatah becomes an Islamic movement. We did not agree.

[Correspondent] But you received assistance from the PLO?

[Al-Tamimi] That is true, the Islamic Jihad Movement-Bayt al-Maqdis received PLO assistance, and this is one of the movement's rights. However, this did not prevent us from opposing the Oslo agreement.

[Correspondent] Do you still receive this assistance?

[Al-Tamimi] No, this assistance was stopped.

[Correspondent] [Former Israeli Defense Minister Ari'el] Sharon had demanded that you be expelled from Jordan. What is your comment on this?

[Al-Tamimi] Jordan is my country and I will not leave it. Jordan is an independent sovereign state that has a constitution. It does not take instructions from anyone.

Police Chief on Arms Confiscation, Newspaper Ban

TA0212141394 Jerusalem New Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 1 Dec 94

[Interview with Gaza Police Chief Ghazi al-Jabali by correspondent 'Anat Saragusti in al-Jabali's Gaza office on 1 December—recorded; Saragusti questions in English and al-Jabali answers in Arabic with superimposed Hebrew subtitles; transcribed from the English and translated from the Arabic]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Saragusti] There was another murder in Israel yesterday, and people in Israel are worried about the security situation.

[Al-Jabali] When, God willing, the Palestinian security is extended to the West Bank, these incidents will decrease. Now, however, the West Bank is not one of our responsibilities. Our responsibility is Jericho and Gaza.

[Saragusti] What has changed here in Gaza since the events of two weeks ago?

[Al-Jabali] Many things have changed. First of all, Friday's [18 November] events are transient events in the history of our people. The situation has started to calm down, and it will become even more tranquil.

[Saragusti] So, is the investigating committee working?

[Al-Jabali] Yes. It is working very seriously. It has begun its work and is hearing testimony from everyone.

[Saragusti] I understand that in the last few days newspapers from the West Bank were not allowed inside the Gaza Strip. Why is that?

[Al-Jabali] No, the newspapers have not been banned or confiscated at all. There is no decision to ban or impound newspapers. All that happened was that the newspapers' arrival to the distributors was delayed.

[Saragusti] You said many times that you are going to confiscate all illegal weapons in the Gaza Strip. Did the police do that?

[Al-Jabali] We began to do this some time ago. We are confiscating, but this requires time. We have begun to confiscate the weapons that appear in the streets, but this requires time.

Papers Banned in Gaza Strip for 5th Day*TA0212133994 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 2 Dec 94*

[FBIS Translated Text] The Palestinian police in Gaza today again prevented the distribution of the East Jerusalem newspapers AL-QUDS and AL-NAHAR. All copies of the newspapers were confiscated by the police at the Erez border crossing, and the distributors were told to come at noon to retrieve them. Copies of the Israeli English newspaper THE JERUSALEM POST were also stopped at the entrance to the Gaza Strip. This is the fifth consecutive day that the Palestinian police has barred the distribution of these newspapers in the Gaza Strip. No reason was given for the action.

Radio, Television Official on Future, Frustrations*JN0312120594 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0840 GMT 3 Dec 94*

[FBIS Translated Text] Good morning from Voice of Palestine to all colleagues working with us in this transmission period, which will continue until 1500 today.

In fact, several brother listeners are making telephone calls and sending letters from inside and outside the homeland to ask about the date for starting the Palestinian Television transmission and about the current radio transmission of the Voice of Palestine.

Colleague Radwan Abu-'Ayyash, director of the Radio and Television Authority, answered most of these questions in an interview published today by the Jerusalem-based Palestinian paper, AL-NAHAR.

He says: Our plan is make our transmission reach all brother listeners from a five-story building in Ramallah as of March 1995, regardless if there has been an Israeli withdrawal from the West Bank or not. Contacts have been held with world states and friendly organizations to provide equipment and machinery, but it will be some time before that arrives. So far, the Palestinian experience in television transmission has been limited to the Gaza area, while the radio transmission covers the West Bank and Gaza. The reason for the delay in television transmission to the West Bank is the shortage in equipment. But, the main reason is the Israeli obstacles. Israel is still obstructing an agreement on the Palestinian television frequencies in more than one area in the West Bank. At any rate, in a meeting we had with the Israelis, agreement was reached on the frequencies for the areas of Janin, Nablus, Jericho, and Gaza. Frequencies for Ramallah, Hebron, Bayt Jala, and Khan Yunus are still under study.

Abu-'Ayyash added: In general, the Israeli proposals will create problems with certain neighboring states. Additionally, they require large sums of money. The Palestinian side had demanded a communications link to relay the radio and television transmission between Jericho and Gaza and between Jericho and Ramallah via

two radio lines linking the Jericho and Gaza studios. After several months, the Israeli side linked only one line for radio transmission between Jericho and the relay station in Ramallah.

Apart from Israeli procrastination, there is also an obstruction concerning the arrival and entry of equipment that arrives at the border crossing points, under the pretext that this equipment requires permission for entry and exemption from taxes. Furthermore, the colleagues cannot reach their offices or are prevented from carrying out their duties when they are refused permits. I believe that Israeli television and radio must be treated equally if the Israelis insist on hampering the mission of Palestinian radio and television workers.

Colleague Radwan says there is a long list of equipment and machinery donated by private companies. These are expected to reach the Palestinian Radio and Television Authority soon. They include a television studio station from American donors and radio equipment from German donors. As regards television, our main problem is the transmission generators, and these are very expensive; they cost around \$15 million. The television studios which Europe promised to donate a year and a half ago are expected to arrive in January 1995.

As regards the employees in the Voice of Palestine and the television, and the authority's employees in general, Abu-'Ayyash says: The colleagues have not been getting any salaries. We have no budget and we are borrowing from banks to cover the deficit.

He adds: At any rate, the Israeli side also refuses to change radio frequencies to the frequencies which were used in the past by the Palestinian side, or which are registered in the name of Palestine at the International Telecommunication Union Communications Union, under the pretext that these are good and important frequencies. It has been agreed that our transmission power will be at least 200 kw reached in three stages; 50, 100, and 200 kw. However, only the first stage was implemented.

Abu-'Ayyash adds: They still refuse to allocate FM frequencies for the foreign, education, and sports program. This also applies to the shortwave frequency which we need to make the Voice of Palestine reach all parts of the world. We hope this will happen soon.

'Source' Denies Reports on Erez Crossing Incident*JN0412121894 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1130 GMT 4 Dec 94*

[FBIS Translated Text] A responsible Palestinian source has denied reports that the citizen who was shot and wounded by the Israeli occupation troops near Erez crossing this morning was carrying explosives.

Military Chief: PA Respects Opposition's Freedom

JN0412201994 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic
1900 GMT 4 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Brigadier General al-Hajj Isma'il Jabr, commander of the Palestinian Forces in Jericho, has said that the Palestinian National Authority [PA] respects the opposition's freedom and right to expression through all means in accordance with laws and discipline. He said: The Palestinians believe that they are building a homeland in which security and stability should prevail and which is based on the principles of human rights, democracy, and free economy.

Al-Tibi Accuses Rabin of Trying To Isolate 'Arafat

TA0512071294 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0600
GMT 5 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Dr. Ahmad al-Tibi said that Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin is trying to isolate Yasir 'Arafat and is not handling him with kid gloves. Dr. al-Tibi told Qol Yisra'el that Mr. Rabin should bear in mind that 'Arafat is his partner in a very crucial political process. Al-Tibi asserted that the Palestinian Authority is functioning quite well in view of the political pressures exerted by Israel and the Gaza Strip opposition, as well as the delays in the transfer of funds from the international community.

Algeria

Ministry Denies Press Report on Peres Meeting

*LD0412174094 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic
1700 GMT 4 Dec 94*

[FBIS Translated Text] The services of the Algerian Foreign Affairs Ministry have categorically denied the contents of a REUTER report which claimed that the Algerian Foreign Affairs Minister Mahamed Salah Dembri would meet the Israeli Foreign Affairs Minister Shim'on Peres on the sidelines of the CSCE summit in Budapest.

The Foreign Affairs Ministry described REUTER information as unfounded.

Dembri will represent Algeria in this conference which will start tomorrow and is expected to issue a statement on security and cooperation in the Mediterranean basin.

On the occasion of this conference, the foreign affairs minister intends to convey a message which highlights and presents Algeria's interest in the course of the security and development in Europe, and its commitment to combat all forms which aim at imposing instability.

Prime Minister Discusses Relations With Italy

*LD0312205494 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic
1830 GMT 3 Dec 94*

[FBIS Translated Text] In a lengthy exclusive interview with an Italian newspaper, Prime Minister Mokdad Sifi talked about all aspects of political and economic relations with Italy. He also discussed several points concerning the situation in Algeria. Let us follow the details of the interview in the following report:

In an exclusive interview to the Italian daily IL MANIFESTO, which was published today, Prime Minister Sifi said that not only does he reject any wish to interfere in Algeria's internal affairs, but there is no interference at present and will not be any in the future. On whether the Algerian authorities will accept the presence of observers from the United Nations or other international organizations during the forthcoming elections, Mr. Sifi stressed that Algeria is not Haiti and Algeria will never accept interference from anyone.

With regard to Algerian-Italian relations on the political level, particularly after the conference on Algeria which was recently organized by the Catholic Sant-Egidio Community of Rome, the prime minister stressed that these relations are officially good. He expressed the hope that matters would improve with Berlusconi's government, which is still new.

On the Rome conference and its possible repercussions for Algerian-Italian relations, the prime minister said that the Italians officially adopted a stance in favor of the Algerian Government and against terrorism at G-7 and

at the European level. He added that a prime minister cannot be affected by the fact that a private organization attempted to interfere in Algerian internal affairs, particularly since the Italian Government and the Vatican had nothing to do with that meeting. Mr. Sifi stressed: Our reaction is no different from that of an Italian prime minister in the event that there was a crisis in Italy and an Algerian mosque hosted a conference of Italian parties. He wondered why the political parties had not met in Algeria itself.

With regard to Algerian-Italian economic relations, Mr. Sifi recalled the importance of Italy, which is considered Algeria's second partner after France. He stressed that Italy will have a place in the Algerian economy on its way out of the crisis.

In reply to a question on preparations for the presidential elections—scheduled for before the end of 1995—in light of the current security situation, the prime minister said that the holding of these elections was a decision taken by the head of state, who is also the defense minister, after a detailed assessment of the situation. He said that the government is entrusted with creating the necessary conditions for holding the elections in the best possible way. Mr. Sifi pointed out that these elections are one of the goals of the national consensus platform, which was approved at the beginning of 1994, and that state institutions have been entrusted with carrying them out and with revising the elections law. He added that these institutions have also committed themselves to continuing the political dialogue.

With regard to terrorism, the prime minister rejected the idea that there are areas controlled or occupied by the armed groups, whose operations are focused on certain areas, particularly the mountainous ones.

On the suspension of some newspapers on security grounds, Mr. Sifi stated that some journalists do not respect the rules of the profession. He stressed also that the state wants to restore control over all sectors because laws get violated when the state is absent.

Report on Government Spokesman News Conference

*LD0412142594 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic
1200 GMT 4 Dec 94*

[FBIS Translated Text] Ahmed Attaf, official government spokesman and secretary of state in charge of cooperation and Maghreban affairs, held a news conference this morning at the Foreign Ministry in which he talked about the current security situation and economic and political issues. More details are in the report by radio correspondent Abdelkader Djreidi:

[Begin recording] [Djeridi] At the beginning of the news conference, the secretary of state for Maghreban cooperation and official government spokesman bowed in honor of the pure souls of the victims of terrorism and expressed profound condolences to the media for

bereavement after having very recently lost dear members, the latest of whom was Said Mekbel, the publishing editor of the daily LE MATIN. He said that the protection of this threatened profession is one of the first priorities of the government and that the dossier is the subject of consultation between government departments and the officials in charge of the media apparatus in order to discuss tangible measures for protecting journalists.

[Attaf] The protection of the media is a high priority on the government's agenda. The head of government personally, together with the departments of the office of the head of government, hold regular meetings with the representatives of this profession in order to study this security question. Consultation regarding field measures which can be taken to secure the protection of the media profession is the subject of consultation between the government and the representatives of the profession. All I can say without going into detail, for reasons of which you are aware, is that many items relating to this subject—that is, the subject of protecting journalists—are being studied by the government and representatives of the profession.

[Djeridi] Regarding the security situation in the country Ahmed Attaf reaffirmed that the security services are in control of the situation and that the abnormal incidents occurring from time to time, such as those which recently took place in Boufarik, did not mean that the security services are not in control of the situation.

With regard to the possibility of the resumption of the national dialogue, the official government spokesman pointed out that the doors of the dialogue have not been closed at all, and here he referred back to the speech given by head of state Liamine Zeroual on 29 October and his address at the recent meeting of the Council of Ministers.

Mr. Attaf seized the opportunity to remove some of the ambiguity, as he put it, surrounding the statements of some of the parties that took part in Rome's meeting and that accused the regime of being the forerunner in the internationalization of the Algerian crisis at meetings held in various countries.

[Attaf] Algeria is a member of the international community. In practicing its diplomacy it can explain to a certain partner its internal situation: its political, social, security, and economic situation. This is a routine diplomatic practice that does not in any sense mean the internationalization of the Algerian crisis. The real internationalization attempt was the departure of the parties from the national arena abroad to search for a solution to our crisis under foreign guardianship and the subjugation of the will of our people to the will of others abroad. This is the real internationalization.

[Djeridi] Asked about the possibility of holding a new conference in Algeria, as some papers reported, Mr.

Ahmed Attaf said that those papers have been known to falsify the facts in our country, denying on the other hand this idea.

Concerning the invitation of the Moroccan king to attend the Maghreb summit scheduled to convene in our country this month and which was preceded by the invitation of the head of state King Hassan II to attend the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] summit next week in Morocco and the possibility of Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak's participation in the Arab Maghreb Union's [UMA] summit in Algeria, the government official spokesman said that these were premature questions and that the level of Algeria's representation at the ICO summit in Morocco will be announced later, adding that Egypt's participation in the UMA summit in Algeria is not on at the moment.

With regard to the notice of the public works and building union to stage a strike on 12 December, Ahmed Attaf stressed that the government adopted in principle the necessary measures for a financial clean-up of the building sector and they would be implemented so as to solve the general situation of the sector. He added that the government was in continuous consultation with its social and economic partners in order to find the necessary solutions to all the social and economic problems. He said this was the same consultation held by the government with the company Senatrach and the union of the petrochemical industry workers, so as to resolve the workers' concerns.

In reply to a question on the strike of more than one million pupils in the Kabylie region demanding the officialization of the Amazigh [Berber] language, Mr. Ahmed Attaf stressed again that the government was sincere in its will to find a solution to the Amazigh issue. This is considered a national and legitimate question and its solution would be achieved within an organized framework, that is, in the framework of the national committee which was installed by the prime minister.

Journalists' questions also focused on the commitment of the head of state to organize presidential elections before the end of next year. He stressed here that the head of state has all of the material means, and all of the conditions for the organization and implementation of elections would be made available. Moreover, this commitment by the head of state emanated from his full conviction in the possibility to organize these elections. He also said that the regime was waiting for the official position of political parties which have not yet expressed any official stance. Mr. Ahmed Attaf said that we cannot now comment on any stance of any political party on its participation or nonparticipation in these elections.

In reply to a question on the latest meeting of interior ministers, known as the three plus three meeting, he answered that the meeting came within the framework of combating the phenomenon of terrorism in the Mediterranean Basin and that it did not have any link with the internationalization of the Algerian crisis.

At the end of the news conference, the official government spokesman expressed Algeria's preoccupation about the seriousness of the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina, particularly the aggressions carried out by the Serbs against the Muslims and what is happening in Bihac. He called on the United Nations and the UN Security Council to make a move within the framework of protection of the Muslims of Bosnia who are facing Serb attacks. [end recording]

LE MATIN Editor Victim of 'Terrorist' Attack

Editor's Death Announced

LD0412114794 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1100 GMT 4 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The daily LE MATIN has reported in a statement that its publishing editor, Said Makbel, has died this morning after he was exposed to a terrorist attack yesterday morning in Hussein Dey in the capital where he was hit by two bullets in his head.

The deceased had been taken to El Kubba hospital and then to Ain Naga hospital. He was in a deep coma until the moment of death. May God bless the deceased and gave his kinfolk patience and solace.

Berbers Condemn Killing

LD0412205994 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 4 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The Berber Cultural Movement national committees called off the news conference it was due to hold today at the cinema hall in Tizi Ouzou. The item on the agenda was going to be the official recognition of the Tamazight language.

The Berber Cultural Movement announced that the news conference had been postponed. It condemned the terrorist act that claimed the life of the journalist Said Mekbel. It also renewed its call for a boycott of schools, even if it meant wasting a whole year, the movement said.

Journalists Call For Protection

LD0312093694 Paris Radio France International in French 0630 GMT 3 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] In Algeria, the association of journalists has accused the government of not being tough enough following the murder of two journalists in Boufarik on Wednesday [30 November].

The association said that the authorities have not been able to guarantee a minimum of security for journalists despite the Algerian prime minister's declaration two weeks ago to strengthen security measures.

Algiers Radio Reports Killing of French National

LD0312185194 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in French 1800 GMT 3 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Lucien Antoine Marel, a 74-year-old French national and retired mathematics teacher, was stabbed to death in Ain El Turk, Oran, this morning.

Nine 'Terrorists' Killed Between 28 Nov-1 Dec

LD0412193194 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 4 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] A statement by issued by security services today said that they had eliminated nine terrorists between Monday 28 November and Thursday 1 December in the capital Algiers, Skikda and Mostaganem. According to security services sources, a considerable amount of arms was recovered during these operations.

Egypt

Musa Attends CSCE Budapest Meeting as Observer

Meets Christopher, Peres, Others

NC0412213294 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 4 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa met with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher in Budapest today. During the meeting they reviewed the latest developments in the peace process on the Palestinian and Syrian tracks. Musa stressed Egypt's support for Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, the peace process, implementation of the second stage of the Declaration of Principles agreement, and holding the elections.

Musa also received Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres. They reviewed the latest developments in the peace process in the Middle East. Musa stressed the need for Israel to quickly implement the Declaration of Principles agreement to back the Palestinian National Authority.

Musa met with the Arab Maghreb Union foreign ministers who are visiting Budapest to attend the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe. During the meeting they discussed issues of common concern, primarily the situation in the Arab and Islamic worlds, the developments in the peace process in the Middle East, and the situation in Bosnia.

Musa Interviewed on CSCE Summit

NC0512075294 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0610 GMT 5 Dec 94

[Telephone interview with Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa, in Budapest, by Ashraf 'Abd-al-'Aziz, in Cairo, date not given; from the "Dialogue From Afar" program—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] ['Abd-al-'Aziz] Minister 'Amr Musa, welcome to the Voice of the Arabs.

[Musa] Thank you.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] You are today chairing Egypt's delegation to the summit of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe [CSCE]. This is Egypt's first time

at the summit, as an observer. What is the significance of this attendance and how important is the summit for Egypt?

[Musa] We are interested in the Mediterranean dimension of the summit. I would like to remind you of President Mubarak's initiative on Mediterranean (?cooperation). The issue concerns the way in which European efforts can be directed toward serving or considering the interests of the Mediterranean countries. This is what we are doing. This the first time Egypt has attended the summit. Some other countries that (?support) Egypt's position on this issue are also attending, namely, north African countries, most notably Tunisia, Algeria, and Morocco. This is in addition to Israel, which will also be attending the meeting.

[Abd-al-'Aziz] Minister, why is Egypt concerned with the issue of Mediterranean cooperation at this particular time?

[Musa] Because international relations are now being reformulated. There is major European activity and interest in cultural, economic, and other forms of cooperation with the Mediterranean region. So the issue is on the table and we should therefore respond and try to put things in the context that serves our interests.

[Abd-al-'Aziz] Will Egypt put forward a particular view at the meetings?

[Musa] No. There will be discussions in which we will participate and we will follow this up with proposals within the framework of the discussions. We are here as observers, not as members.

[Abd-al-'Aziz] Minister, could you shed some light on your visit to Morocco earlier?

[Musa] The visit came ahead of the upcoming Islamic Conference Organization summit. This summit needs consultations and coordination among the Islamic and Arab countries, especially in view of the seriousness of the topics on the agenda. There are the subjects of Bosnia and Jerusalem and the cooperation among the Islamic countries to defend the image of Islam against the many attacks against it from inside and outside the Islamic world.

[Abd-al-'Aziz] Can we consider this summit as a turning point in Arab-Arab and Arab-Islamic relations.

[Musa] This is an ordinary Islamic summit. You are asking me if it will be a turning point. We hope so.

[Abd-al-'Aziz] I mean: Is there a possibility of investing in this summit?

[Musa] This is necessary.

[Abd-al-'Aziz] Minister 'Amr Musa, you will be traveling to Geneva for the emergency meeting of the Islamic Contact Committee, which groups Egypt and six other Islamic countries. What is the nature of this meeting?

[Musa] This is an emergency meeting to discuss the sensitive and serious situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

[Abd-al-'Aziz] What is Egypt's position on the latest developments in the Bosnian crisis?

[Musa] I clearly expressed it. Naturally, our position will revolve around this. There is much (?injustice) and very clear bias. There is a clear failure in the handling of the situation, which has dire consequences not only for Bosnia, but for the world order in general.

[Abd-al-'Aziz] Thank you Minister.

[Musa] Thank you.

Al-Baz Remarks on Disagreement With Washington Cited

NC0312200494 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1515 GMT 3 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Washington, 3 Dec (MENA)—THE LOS ANGELES TIMES has commented on the disagreement that has started to appear between the United States and Egypt because of the rapprochement between Egypt and the Libyan regime.

In a report from Cairo, the newspaper says that the disagreement emerges at a time when Egypt is no longer the only Arab state that is at peace with Israel.

It notes that Egypt, which is coming under fire because of its support for Ma'amar al-Qadhafi's regime, is moving fast to bolster its relations with the United States at a time when its role as an Arab ally for the United States is being threatened for the first time since the signing of the Camp David accords.

The paper cites Dr. Usamah al-Baz, first Foreign Ministry under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, who returned recently from a visit to the United States, where he tried to narrow the gap of differences. Al-Baz affirmed that there is no crisis involving the two countries' relations and that Egypt has the right to pursue independent policies on Arab issues, including support for al-Qadhafi and objection to the imposition of a regional ban on chemical weapons at a time when Israel possesses nuclear weapons.

Interviewed by the LOS ANGELES TIMES, Dr. al-Baz remarked that it is natural for Egypt and the United States not to see eye to eye on Arab issues, simply because the United States is not a Middle Eastern country and does not know what Egypt does about the factors conducive to stability and peace in the region.

Al-Baz pointed out that while Egypt does not encourage Libya to defy the UN resolutions, the United States must take into consideration that it is not easy for any government to hand over its subjects to another state for trial.

The American newspaper notes that the dispute is happening at a crucial time for both countries, as the peace

drive gains more supporters in the region and Egypt is no longer the only Arab state to embark on peace with Israel and receives \$2.1 billion in U.S. aid.

The newspaper notes that Egypt is being accused of going too far in defending al-Qadhdhafi's regime. It refers to reports about sizable Libyan investments in Egypt, particularly in the field of tourism and the hotel business, at a time when the United States is complaining of Egypt's violation of the international sanctions imposed on Libya through allowing the shipment of military aircraft parts to Tripoli.

The LOS ANGELES TIMES writes that the results of the recent elections in the United States, the Republicans' threat to cut foreign aid, and their hints about a new work plan for the U.S. foreign policy on the Middle East all add to Egypt's concerns.

The paper refers to a recent warning by Senator Jessie Helms, who is expected to head the Senate's Foreign Relations Committee, and who described Egypt as "a hesitant and unreliable ally," while describing Israel as the U.S.'s "only real friend" in the region.

The paper also says that both government-owned and opposition papers in Egypt have attacked the United States and accused it of seeking to subjugate Egypt to its will and coerce it through aid. It refers here to an article by writer Mustafa Amin, in which he stressed that the Republicans must understand that Egypt welcomes friendship with the United States without any subordination because some American politicians use friendship as a means of securing subordination to them.

The LOS ANGELES TIMES writes that the dispute between Cairo and Washington revolves around how to deal with al-Qadhdhafi's regime, which in recent years requested mediation in connection with the Lockerbie issue. The paper notes here that while the U.S. strategy in this crisis is based on the use of sanctions and on isolating the Libyan regime until it hands the defendants over, Egypt has demanded a compromise, suggesting reconciliation as the best solution to the crisis.

The paper cites Dr. al-Baz as saying that we undertake mediation as a fair and sincere party that has no interest other than its desire to reveal the truth and guarantee the defendants a fair trial.

Al-Baz added that if some American officials have a covert goal to remove al-Qadhdhafi, Egypt certainly does not share it. Although these officials have denied that they have such goals, we do not believe that it is the right of the United States or any other foreign power to pursue a policy or undertake an act to overthrow any regime in the region, al-Baz said.

Al-Baz Says Egypt Cannot Be U.S. 'Satellite'

NC0412170794 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1400 GMT 4 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 4 Dec (MENA)—Dr. Usamah al-Baz, Foreign Ministry first under secretary

and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, has stressed that Egypt cannot be a satellite state of the United States or any other country because this would not be in line with its stature and nature. He added that Egypt has always been an independent, leading state in the region, noting that Egyptian policy springs from an Egyptian view and, accordingly, it is the view of an Arab, Islamic, and nonaligned country in the Middle East.

In remarks to MENA in response to the anti-Egyptian press campaign, Dr. al-Baz added that it is hard to find out the real intentions of this campaign, noting that Egypt was surprised by this campaign, launched in more than one newspaper. He pointed out that it cannot be said that the United States as a whole is proceeding along this line, but some media circles, and perhaps some bureaucratic circles not among the decision makers, are arrogating to themselves the right to judge Egyptian policy.

Dr. al-Baz pointed out that it is natural for the Egyptian and U.S. policies not to be identical, because it would not be normal if they were. He affirmed that there is no conflict between Egypt and the United States on basic interests. He added: We are not in a position of hostility to U.S. policies; and if some circles imagine that they are putting pressure on Egypt, they are far from the truth. Egypt, he added, does not act under pressure and there is nothing to terrify or scare it. He pointed out that Egypt is the biggest country in the region and will not give in to diktat, criticism, or pressure by any party. He emphasized that the campaign to which Egypt is being subjected will in the end prove to be "a tempest in a teacup."

On U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's forthcoming tour of a number of regional countries, Dr. al-Baz stated that Egypt hopes that this tour will lead to tangible progress on the Syrian-Israeli track because failure to make progress could cause a setback to the whole peace process, something which we must concentrate on averting. He added: Perhaps it will not be possible for Christopher to make the kind of progress that could bridge the existing gap on the Syrian-Israeli track and reach an integrated formula for a solution and a settlement. However, it is expected that he will make enough progress to cover part of the gap and bring the views of the two sides close enough to enable an agreement to be reached this spring.

On the current split among the Palestinians, Dr. al-Baz noted that Egypt is interested in seeing a unified Palestinian stand, adding that differences in views must not hamper the Palestinian Authority's [PA] assumption of its responsibilities. He added that Egypt hopes that the Palestinians will avoid fighting and will resolve their differences in a fraternal manner, because everybody is in the same boat and the responsibility is huge. He stressed that we must try to enable the PA to handle its responsibilities successfully. This is because nobody prefers continued occupation to the establishment of the

Palestinian Authority, he added. He pointed out that the Palestinian leadership enjoys the support of the majority of Palestinians, particularly in the occupied territories. He added that it is regrettable if the objective of the acts by some Palestinian organizations is to obstruct the PA's assumption of its responsibilities, and Egypt hopes that the Palestinian people, with their awareness, will stop the bloodshed and close ranks. He expressed Egypt's regret that Palestinian blood is being shed and noted that Egypt believes there is a chance to make progress to help the Palestinians assume power in the Palestinian territories.

On Egypt's request to join the Arab Maghreb Union, Dr. al-Baz said this does not encourage the establishment of axes within the Arab homeland but seeks to consolidate cooperation and links among all the Arab states. He added that Egypt is interested in initiating cooperation with the Arab Maghreb states, and is not turning away from the Arab east. He emphasized that Egypt is the link between the east and the Maghreb and is appreciated by all parties. Egypt, he added, does not side with one party against another. Noting that Egypt seeks to close ranks, Dr. al-Baz stressed that the soundest framework for joint Arab action is the Arab League, which Egypt is working to strengthen. He stressed that the regional unions are not axes for polarization but, on the contrary, they seek to consolidate common Arab action.

U.S. Envoy: Articles Do Not Reflect U.S. Views
NC0412163694 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio
Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 4 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Dr. Usamah al-Baz, Foreign Ministry first under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, conferred today with the U.S. ambassador in Cairo. The ambassador praised President Mubarak's efforts to give momentum to the Syrian-Israeli track with a view to achieving a comprehensive peace in the region. He added: We appreciate President Mubarak's visit to Syria and his efforts for progress on this track. He noted that the United States is aware of the important role Egypt is undertaking in this regard.

The U.S. ambassador pointed out that he had reaffirmed to Dr. al-Baz the core of the message which Ambassador Robert Pelletreau, assistant secretary of state for Middle Eastern affairs, had expressed regarding some U.S. press articles on Egypt. He added that what the press is writing does not reflect the views of the U.S. Administration.

On talks in the military field between Egypt and the United States and joint exercises, he said that there are continuing contacts between the two sides.

On the situation in Bosnia, he stressed the need for the Serbs to realize that their plan will not work and that they will have to respond to the ongoing efforts to resolve the problem.

Pelletreau Regrets U.S. Anti-Egyptian Articles
NC0412085394 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0700 GMT 4 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 4 Dec (MENA)—Robert Pelletreau, assistant secretary of state for Middle East affairs [title as received], has emphasized that U.S.-Egyptian relations are excellent and are based on mutual respect.

In an exclusive statement to the newspaper AL-AHRAM, published today, Pelletreau said the two countries hold identical views on various aspects of their longstanding cooperation. The U.S. official added that the U.S. Administration is keen on maintaining the excellent relations with Egypt, both for the sake of the two countries' interests and for the stability and development of the Middle East region.

In his statements, Pelletreau stressed that the articles published recently in U.S. papers about relations between Egypt and the United States do not reflect the U.S. Administration's views or those of President Bill Clinton, and he said that the U.S. Administration, like the Egyptian Government, has taken note of these articles. He expressed regret that these articles were aimed at harming U.S.-Egyptian relations and stressed that these articles reflect personal interpretations and ideas. Pelletreau criticized the attitude of certain journalists who focused on baseless, negative aspects instead of highlighting the positive side of the cooperation between the two countries.

Continuing, Pelletreau maintained that any political observer who looks at matters seriously would note that U.S.-Egyptian relations are excellent. This was confirmed by President Clinton's eagerness to meet with President Husni Mubarak and his choice of Cairo as the first leg of his Middle East tour in October, Pelletreau added. He said that this was no coincidence but rather a confirmation of President Clinton's desire to hold consultations with President Mubarak and explore his ideas in light of the extremely important role Egypt is playing in advancing peace, stability, and security in the Middle East.

The U.S. official emphasized the U.S. Administration's interest in Egypt's role in the region and in bolstering the excellent relations with Egypt, which is a friend of the United States. He also affirmed U.S. interest in Egypt's social and economic development. This interest was reflected in the agreement between President Mubarak and U.S. Vice President Al Gore during their recent meeting in Cairo to establish a new mechanism for supplying Egypt with technological help and expertise in scientific fields and for assisting it in implementing its economic program.

In his statements to AL-AHRAM, Pelletreau said that Washington wishes Egypt success in implementing its economic program and in achieving a better life for the

Egyptian people, since this would create job opportunities for the young. He said it is natural that close friends might differ on certain viewpoints and noted that Egypt and the United States would discuss those differences in a frank, clear, and sincere manner and would not let such differences get blown out of proportion.

Touching on the Libyan-Western dispute over the issue of Lockerbie, Pelletreau said that the United States understands that Egypt has special relations and common interests with its neighbor, Libya. Although there is a large number of Egyptians working in Libya, Egypt continues to abide by the implementation of UN Security Council resolutions against Libya, Pelletreau added.

He said it is of utmost importance that the Libyan Government knows its interests and expressed the hope that Egypt will contribute toward convincing Libya to pursue peaceful means in its dealings with the international community.

On the issue of nuclear disarmament in the Middle East, the U.S. official reiterated that Egypt and the United States have agreed to make the Middle East a zone free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction. He said that consultations between the two countries are continuing in order to find the best ways to achieve this goal, especially since the UN-sponsored conference on the issue of nuclear disarmament will be held in April.

AL-AHRAM notes that Pelletreau declined to give a direct answer to a question about whether the United States supports the need for Israel to join the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

Pelletreau said that the achievement of an honorable peace between Syria and Israel is possible. This, however, needs much patience, he added.

Dailies Comment on Ties With U.S., Differences
NC0512064694 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2257 GMT 4 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 4 Dec (MENA)—The newspaper AL-AHRAM has stated that Egypt does not need a certificate of good conduct from anyone, not even if it is the most powerful country in the world, noting in this regard the statement made by Robert Pelletreau, U.S. assistant secretary of state for Middle Eastern affairs, in which he described U.S. relations with Egypt as excellent. In an editorial to be published on Monday, AL-AHRAM said: When we welcome such an affirmation and other positive remarks in Pelletreau's statement, it does not mean we consider them a certificate of good conduct required by Egypt, but as recognition of what is right and what puts things in their proper perspective. The paper asserts that Egypt, like any other country, needs true and unbiased understanding of its policies and interests, an understanding that does not aim at fishing in troubled waters. This understanding that Egypt wants for itself and others and that it shows to

all its partners in international relations ensures fruitful relations of cooperation based on equality, mutual respect, and care for the vital interests of each party.

AL-AHRAM says that Pelletreau's statement proved that the efforts being made to preserve friendly Egyptian-U.S. relations are not made by one party, but are a joint effort between the two countries, demonstrating that the United States is prepared to show the required understanding of Egypt's policies and interests. The paper adds that if this understanding has other meanings, it indicates that differences in views are conceivable, since interests differ. The U.S. official admitted this when he said it is natural that loyal friends may differ in some views and that Egypt and the United States exchange views on this issue frankly and clearly as friends and do not let these differences escape the framework of frankness.

AL-AHRAM said it is only natural that views between Egypt and the United States on Arab issues are not identical, for the simple reason that the United States is not a Middle Eastern country and does not know what Egypt knows about the factors conducive to tranquility and stability in the region. So there is every right to reserve independent policies on Arab issues, including support for Libya and objection to imposing a ban on chemical weapons when Israel possesses nuclear weapons.

In an editorial, AL-AKHBAR denounced false rumors claiming that Egypt-U.S. relations are facing a crisis. It noted that these rumors were based on some national newspapers' comments criticizing the U.S. stance on Bosnia or Libya. The paper said that this thinking reveals ignorance, naivete, and misunderstanding, not only of the role of Egyptian press, but of the role of the press everywhere. The papers said that the role of the press in Egypt is the same as that of the press in any democratic country that exercises absolute freedom within the confines of the law.

AL-AKHBAR notes the statement made by Dr. Usamah al-Baz, Foreign Ministry first under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, to a U.S. paper on this issue. In his statement al-Baz said there is no crisis in Egyptian-U.S. relations and that it is only natural for Egypt to pursue independent policies on particular Arab and other issues. The Egyptian press are quite free to express their views within the confines of the law.

Two Defendants in Attack Sentenced to Death
NC0312130294 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1212 GMT 3 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 3 Dec (MENA)—The Higher Military Court has sentenced to death two defendants in the al-Ghardaqah incidents case [an attack on 27 September in which a German tourist and two Egyptians were killed]. There are 16 defendants in the case, five of them fugitives.

The court sentenced four defendants to 15 years in prison with hard labor, two defendants to seven years with hard labor, and one defendant to a five-year imprisonment with hard labor.

The two defendants who received the death sentence are Muhammad 'Atallah 'Umar and Rabi' Muhammad Mahmud Husayn.

Prosecution Sends 'Assassinations Group' to Court

NC0312183294 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1720 GMT 3 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Cairo, 3 Dec (MENA)—Prosecutor General Counselor Raja' al-'Arabi today agreed to refer 23 terrorists to the Supreme State Security Court—Emergency for trial in connection with the major assassinations organization. The terrorists are accused of planning to assassinate a number of prominent figures and leading security officials; attempting the assassination of a warrant officer in Shubra al-Khaymah; and being in possession of firearms, explosives, and ammunition with the intention of using them in terrorist operations.

An indictment statement prepared by Attorney General 'Isam Saraya listed the charges of joining an illicit secret organization with the goal of resisting the law and the Constitution, undermining social peace, conspiring to commit premeditated and attempted murders, and being in possession of unlicensed firearms and explosives.

Investigations revealed that the defendants formed a group that adopted the thought of the extremist al-Jihad organization, calling themselves "the assassinations group." They planned the assassination of some personalities; were trained in the use of weapons in their hideouts in Shubra al-Khaymah, the pyramids area, and al-'Abbasiyah; and planned the assassination of some policemen in the al-Sahil police station and a security forces camp in Cairo.

Investigations conducted on 30 November revealed that they put Warrant Officer 'Abd-al-Karim Muhammad Abu-Ahmad of the State Security Forces in Shubra al-Khaymah under surveillance, waited for him outside his working place, and one of them tried to shoot him. When the gun got stuck, the assailant kept hitting the officer on the head with the gun. The officer managed to catch the assailant, with the people's help. [passage omitted]

Policeman Killed, 3 Others Injured by Gunmen

NC0312115294 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1045 GMT 3 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 3 Dec (MENA)—A regular sentry was martyred and three other policemen were injured when unidentified gunmen fired at the unit guarding the officers' rest house at Farshut police center in Qina.

An official security source at the Interior Ministry said that, at about 2200 yesterday, unknown gunmen fired at the rest house, killing regular sentry Ahmad Muhammad Sulayman and injuring regular sentry 'Awad Bura'i Hasan, regular sentry Rizq Husayn Hasan, and policeman Hasan Ahmad.

The source said the wounded policemen were taken to the general hospital at Farshut while security forces surrounded the area searching for the culprits, who escaped to the plantation fields nearby.

Leaders of Qina Security Directorate, officials from the various investigation agencies, and forensic experts went to the scene, and efforts—including combing the plantation fields—are being made to capture the assailants.

Police Recruit Shot Dead in Mallawi

NC0512062894 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2225 GMT 4 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 4 Dec (MENA)—A recruit from al-Minya Security Directorate in Upper Egypt was martyred this evening when he was fired at in Idfu village in Mallawi, al-Minya Governorate.

An official security source at the Interior Ministry said that while recruit Ramadan Rizq 'Abd-al-Fattah and a colleague of his were passing on foot in the village of Idfu, unidentified gunmen fired at them, fatally wounding 'Abd-al-Fattah.

Leaders of the al-Minya Security Directorate and officials from the various investigation agencies went to the scene. Efforts are being made to capture the culprits. The prosecution was informed so that it would start investigations.

Authorities Say Killer of 4 Westerners 'Terrorist'

NC0312190294 Paris AFP in English 1825 GMT 3 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cairo, Dec 3 (AFP)—Egyptian authorities acknowledged for the first time Saturday [3 December] that the killer of four westerners at a Cairo hotel last year was a Muslim militant "terrorist" and not a madman as they earlier claimed.

The Egyptian parliament said in a statement that President Hosni Mubarak had decided to award the order of merit to two victims of the "terrorist incident" at the Semiramis hotel on October 26, 1993.

They were the former dean of France's Aix-en-Provence university law school, Fernand Boulan, and an adviser to the Italian ministry of justice, Luigi Daga.

They were attending a law seminar in Cairo at the time of the shooting.

The attacker, 29-year-old Sabir Farahat Abu-al-'Ula, shouted "Allah Akbar" (God is great) as he sprayed the hotel restaurant with gunfire.

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He was arrested several minutes after the attack but has never stood trial because doctors said he was mentally unbalanced. He is still being kept at a mental hospital.

More than 500 people including 12 westerners have died since Muslim militants launched a campaign of violence in March 1992 to topple Mubarak's secular government.

UK's Hogg, Arab League Head Discuss Lockerbie
NC0412163794 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1505 GMT 4
Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 4 Dec (MENA)—Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid met today with Douglas Hogg, minister of state at the British Foreign and Commonwealth Office, who is currently visiting Egypt. Hogg said that this is his second meeting with 'Abd-al-Majid over the past three weeks. He added that the meeting dealt with international, Arab, and regional issues, especially the developments in the Middle East peace process, the Libyan-Western crisis, the situation in Yemen, and the issue of terrorism.

Asked about Britain's stance on Libya, Hogg said the British stand has not changed. He affirmed that the two Libyan suspects must stand trial either in Scotland or in the United States. He added that he doesn't have a secret agenda for the Libyan-Western crisis, explaining that the Western countries' sole demand is the trial of the two suspects for the charges leveled against them.

Regarding the Arab League's proposals for resolving the Libyan-Western crisis, Hogg said he had discussed these proposals, which call for the trial of the two suspects to be held in a third country. However, he rejected these proposals, pointing out that they are not acceptable to Britain.

Answering a question on whether there can be a British-Libyan dialogue, Hogg expressed the belief that it is impossible to hold such a dialogue until Libya accepts and implements the UN Security Council resolutions.

Asked about Britain's stance on the Syrian-Israeli track, Hogg expressed the belief that Syria wants peace with Israel. He also expressed the belief that it is necessary for Syria and Israel to hold bilateral talks, indicating that it is difficult for a Syrian-Israeli agreement to be reached through a third party. He noted that third party mediation is useful but this mediation must be preceded by bilateral talks on the details of peace. He expressed the hope that Syria and Israel will hold direct and intensive talks with a view to achieving comprehensive peace between them.

Hogg on Bosnia, Other Issues

NC0512084394 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0750 GMT 5
Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 5 Dec (MENA)—Douglas Hogg, minister of state at the British Foreign and Commonwealth Office, stressed the importance of Israel signing the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

Speaking at a news conference prior to his departure from Cairo this morning following a two-day visit, Hogg said that he discussed this issue with officials during his Cairo talks and that he understands Egypt's view on the importance of having all countries of the region, especially Israel, sign the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. He stressed that Britain is very keen on having Israel sign this treaty and, at the same time, have all the parties understand the importance of signing it.

Minister Hogg said that he held a series of talks with Dr. Usamah al-Baz, first Foreign Ministry under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, with whom he had two meetings, and with the interior, planning, tourism, and industry ministers as well as with Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid. He added that his talks focused on the Middle East peace process, the situations in Bosnia, Algeria, Iraq, and Iran, and the Lockerbie problem.

He stressed that his talks focused primarily on bilateral ties, noting in this respect that relations between Egypt and Britain are very good and that the two countries have identical views on a number of issues. He said that Britain believes that Egypt has its own views on a number of issues in the region and is eager to consult with it on them, especially the peace process and the Lockerbie issue. He noted in this respect the importance of the visits exchanged by the two sides.

On the Lockerbie issue, Hogg said that his country does not see any change in the Libyan stand and that the British Government insists on the extradition of the two persons suspected of involvement in blowing up the U.S. plane over Lockerbie, Scotland, for trial either in Scotland or the United States. He reiterated that his country completely rejects the Libyan offer to try them by a Scottish court in the Hague.

On the situation in Bosnia, he reaffirmed his country's stand, which underlines the importance of having all the concerned parties—Bosnian Muslims, Christians, Croats arrive at an agreement on the basis of giving the Bosnian Government 51 percent of the territories and the Bosnian Serbs the remaining 49 percent. He added: At the same time, a kind of relationship between Bosnian Serbs, Croats, and Muslims has to be found. There must be some form of federation between Bosnia's Serbs and the State of Serbia in the same way that agreement was reached on such a federation between Bosnia's Croats and Croatia.

Hogg defended his country against criticisms over its stand on Bosnia compared to its stand on Iraq. He said: In Iraq's case, this country attacked another country, Kuwait. We could not remain silent and resolve it peacefully, but rather had to use force and that was what we did as Western countries. He added: In Bosnia's case, the situation is different because of the civil war between parties that were bound together by one state for 40 years, namely Yugoslavia. No one can intervene when there is civil war in Yugoslavia because this would lead

to more wars in all the Balkan region. He noted that the Arab countries could not intervene when civil war broke out in Yemen.

Douglas Hogg reiterated that civil wars can only be terminated if agreement is reached among all the warring parties themselves. This is what the Western states are trying to do in the former Yugoslavia. He pointed out that his and other countries are trying to decrease the intensity of the war by extending humanitarian aid.

He said they cannot resort to the use of force, because that will require the intervention of 100,000 or 200,000 soldiers and no country can supply such a large number of soldiers in an aggressive civil war.

He added that air strikes could not stop the civil war; they could only have short-term results.

On maintaining the sanctions against Iraq, Hogg said his country believes these sanctions should continue until Iraq proves it is serious about fully implementing the Security Council resolutions.

On Jerusalem, the British minister said there is agreement to discuss the issue at the end of the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations.

Hogg condemned the continuing Israeli settlement-building. He stressed the need to stop building these settlements just anywhere.

He said the agreement over Jerusalem should take into consideration the interests of all the concerned parties in the negotiations, particularly Israel and the Palestinians.

On financial and economic support for the Palestinian Authority, Hogg said the donor countries decided at the meeting in Brussels last week to grant the Palestinian National Authority \$125 million in the coming year. He pointed out that it is important for the Palestinians to respond to the demands of the donor countries to set up a body with greater transparency [shafafiyah] that clarifies how to disburse these funds on agreed upon projects.

At the end of his news conference, Hogg discussed the situation in Algeria and confirmed the importance of dialogue between the Algerian Government and the other parties. He pointed out that the absence of dialogue will see disturbances in Algeria continue, that is, according to him.

Libya

Committee Issues Statement on 'Unjust Sanctions'
LD0212230694 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 2 Dec 94

["Text" of statement issued by the Secretariat of the General People's Committee for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation; place and date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Secretariat of the General People's Committee for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation has perused the statement made by the president of the UN Security Council and delegate of the United States, and the interventions of the members of the council during the nonofficial consultations which were held by the council on Wednesday 30 November 1994, on extending the unjust sanctions imposed on the Great Jamahiriyyah.

While it expresses its despair and indignation at the stubborn stance imposed by the American Government on the council, the secretariat makes the following observations:

First, the American delegate made a statement pointing out the Security Council's resolution not to accept less than full compliance by Libya, and also said that Libya continues to defy the council instead of handing over [the suspects] and that Libya has tried to avoid full compliance by looking for a compromise. These statements are a fabrication against the council as they are in complete contradiction of the statements made by several of the council's members, including permanent members—Russia and China, as well as the nonaligned states—whose views were ignored by the American delegate and which welcomed the positive character of the Great Jamahiriyyah's stance. This proves one thing: the remarks of the American Government delegate reflect her viewpoint only.

Second, the American delegate pointed out that there were men, women, and children among the victims of the Pan-Am and UTA aircraft. The Great Jamahiriyyah expressed its sympathy and regret for the death of those victims at the time; neither the American Government nor its allies did this when the victims of the American aggression against the cities of the Great Jamahiriyyah fell on the night of 14 April 1986. This prompts one to wonder whether they consider other people's victims to be less human than their victims.

Third, America's delegate said that the killers must be brought to justice. We call for the implementation of justice for all. However, the language which was used by the delegate of the biggest superpower made it very clear that she does not know the meaning of justice. The most basic rule of justice is that the accused is innocent until proven guilty; this is apart from the fact that the matter concerns a mere suspicion. This confirms that the sentence was passed against the two suspects in advance, and clearly justifies their right to refuse to appear before a court in a country where sentence has been passed against them in advance. The statement calling for the establishment of a new court proves a lack of understanding, as the proposal made by regional and international organizations calls for the trial to be held in a neutral country which fulfills the conditions of justice and integrity. In addition to this there is the attempt by the American delegate to falsify the mission of the two

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suspects; she said that they were Libyan intelligence agents, while everyone knows that they were employees of Libyan Arab airlines.

Fourth, the U.S. delegate said that the lives of the families of the victims have been shattered as a result of this savage action. We do not deny this. However, we say that the families of the victims of the premeditated aggression committed by the planes of a major power, which refused to admit its guilt and refused to compensate the families of the victims, have had their lives much more shattered and frustrated.

Fifth, the U.S. delegate stated in an improper, unethical manner, showing her unawareness of the truth, that Mu'ammar al-Qadhafi knows what he must do. This clearly reveals the extent of the personal hatred against the leader of the revolution of the Libyan Arab people and it ignores the truth about what is happening on the soil of the Great Jamahiriya. Here, the people govern themselves. It is they who, through their popular congresses, make decisions and carry out these decisions through the popular committees. The U.S. stance stems from an unbalanced mentality and the UN Security Council is not the proper place for it.

Sixth, the British delegate at the UN Security Council said Libya had not satisfactorily responded to the demands of the French judge concerning the UTA incident. Libya would like to recall that the Great Jamahiriya expressed its readiness to provide full cooperation. It invited the French judge to visit the Great Jamahiriya. However, the manner that the judge chose to come to the Jamahiriya was with a frigate armed with ground-to-ground missiles, heavy artillery, and antisubmarine rocket launchers. This was military equipment that had no connection whatsoever with the desired cooperation. Libya's sovereignty is above every consideration. In this, Libya is in company with all the independent states from which the United Nations acquired its legitimate existence. The United Nations should back these states and bolster their independence and sovereignty—it would be a loss to us if the United Nations acted otherwise. The Great Jamahiriya still welcomes the visit of the judge at any time he wishes, but in a manner appropriate to his mission and task.

Seventh, the U.S. and British delegates pointed out that Libya has continued to defy the will of the international community. This is rather strange and it prompts one to question the importance of the international community if it is not represented by China, Russia, India, Brazil, the Vatican, the nonaligned states, the Organization of African Unity, the Islamic Conference Organization, and the Arab League.

The truth is that Britain and America are the ones who challenged the will of the international community by rejecting its efforts to reach a peaceful, just, and honorable solution. The three states [United States, Britain,

and France] insist that the term international community is something that applies to them only. This is a disregard for the true identity of the international community.

The insistence that the trial be held in America or Britain amounts to the height of disregard for international agreements; this includes the Montreal agreement which gives the right to hold the trial in Libya. Legal opinions have confirmed this and because America and Britain could not disprove them they resorted to their actions against the international agreements in a flagrant and overt manner.

The Secretariat of the General People's Committee for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation voices its amazement at the language used in the statement, which lacks logic and diplomatic propriety; its misrepresentations make us doubt that it expresses the opinion of the American government and quite certainly it does not express the opinion of the American people. The statement is the personal opinion of the delegate.

It is important to ask here what the reasons were that led to the absence of the most important mechanism for solving this problem—a mechanism stated in the Security Council resolutions; namely, the role of the secretary general. A great number of council members recalled it.

The Secretariat of the General people's Committee for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation expresses its appreciation for the positive stands voiced by the majority of the UN Security Council members. It calls upon the nations and governments of the world to be vigilant and united in confronting what is being hatched against their independence and sovereignty by this disregard of and indifference to international laws and charters.

Editor Condemns UN on Renewal of Sanctions

*LD0112125994 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab
Homeland in Arabic 1130 GMT 1 Dec 94*

[FBIS Translated Text] For the eighth time the so-called Security Council has renewed the unjust measures imposed on the Great Jamahiriya.

The president of the Security Council for this month, the U.S. ambassador, made a statement to the press in which she said there is no agreement in the Security Council on changing the system of the measures; thus they have remained as they are. She added, however, that some Security Council members were of the opinion that the UN secretary general should continue his efforts to resolve the crisis.

The council made its decision during an unofficial consultation session held yesterday. This is the first time since the imposition of the measures that no president's statement was issued, and was satisfied with the president's statement to the press. [sentence as heard] On the other hand, diplomatic sources told JANA that Russia,

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China, and the Non-Aligned Movement group of countries at the Security Council asked the council to take into consideration the cooperation demonstrated by Libya to resolve the crisis peacefully.

JANA's political affairs editor points out that the so-called Security Council, which this month is headed by the United States, has violated its own internal bylaws by bringing forward the discussion of this issue by two days before its due time on the council's agenda. Friday was the date originally set for discussion. On that day Rwanda assumes the presidency of the council.

He says that with this move, the U.S. Government has shown slight regard for the council and its members, and treated it as its own subordinate administration. He adds that the Libyan Arab people are disappointed, and have a bitter feeling of a lack of justice and of the domination of the law of force and the absence of just law from the world, especially as the Libyan people have presented a large number of initiatives and exerted continued efforts to resolve this issue.

He says that the Great Jamahiriya has offered, and stressed, its cooperation with all the sides, but that this effort and cooperation were met with ingratitude and intransigence by the three Western countries. The editor points out that this measure reflects a belittlement of the efforts of the other countries that attempted to reach a peaceful and just solution to the issue.

Egypt's al-Sharif Carries Message to al-Qadhafi

NC0512102694 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1000 GMT 5 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The MIDDLE EAST NEWS AGENCY reported today that [Egyptian] Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif arrived in Tobruk on his way to Tripoli from Sidi Barrani. Al-Sharif said he is carrying a message from President Muhammad Husni Mubarak to brother Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhafi. He said he will also convey President Mubarak views on several important issues.

Joint Economic Committee With Iran Begins Session

LD0312142194 Tripoli Great Jamahiriya Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 3 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Meetings of the 6th session of the Arab Libyan-Iranian Joint Committee for Economic and Social Cooperation began this morning in Tripoli. Present were brother secretary of the general people's committee for industry and minerals and brother Hoseyn Kamali, minister of Labor and Social Affairs in the Republic of Iran. [passage omitted]

The Iranian minister stressed in a speech that their arrival in the Great Jamahiriya after the extension of those sanctions should be construed as a declaration of

Iran's standing by and solidarity with the Great Jamahiriya in facing up to these sanctions.

France Reportedly Arrests Citizen for Bombing

LD0412113294 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1100 GMT 4 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Tripoli, 4 Dec (JANA)—JANA has learned that the French authorities recently arrested a Libyan citizen claiming that he had an alleged connection with the incident of the UTA French airliner. This citizen—named Ali Umar Mansur—was arrested in an oppressive manner and in ambiguous circumstances, as this citizen had entered French territory with a an official entry visa obtained from the French Embassy in Tripoli. He used to visit France frequently for treatment of an acute illness.

The French authorities have refused to allow the Libyan Arab People's Bureau in Paris to visit the citizen and to hire the services of a lawyer in order to ascertain the reasons for and circumstances of the arrest, a matter which is regarded as being in violation of law and human rights. [passage omitted]

The French authorities had acted on information supplied by some Libyan spies who had fled to Britain and the United States. By such a haphazard and unacceptable measure, the French authorities have harmed an innocent citizen who had entered French territory seeking medical treatment.

FRY Deputy Prime Minister Arrives in Tripoli

LD0312122894 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0732 GMT 3 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Tripoli, 3 Dec—Nikola Sainovic, deputy prime minister of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia [FRY], [words indistinct] and the accompanying delegation arrived in Tripoli yesterday evening. He was welcomed by the secretary for the general people's committee for health and social security.

Sainovic Comments on Relations

LD0312145194 Tripoli Great Jamahiriya Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 3 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Brother secretary of the general people's committee for health and social security met this morning Nikola Sainovic, the deputy prime minister of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia [FRY] who is currently visiting the Great Jamahiriya.

During this meeting, they discussed ways and means for consolidating and developing bilateral relations between the Great Jamahiriya and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia in the various fields toward the realization of the mutual interests of the two friendly peoples.

Report on Thaw in al-Qadhafi, Jallud Relationship

JN0212151094 Amman AL-MAJD in Arabic 28 Nov p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] AL-MAJD has learned that the political estrangement between the Libyan leader

Mu'ammar al-Qadhafi and his second-in-command 'Abd-al-Salam Jallud, who has not been seen in public for some time, seems to be easing. A marked improvement in their relationship has culminated in what looks like a reconciliation, say sources well versed in Libyan affairs.

Jallud is almost back to normal work, having received a decided assurance from al-Qadhafi that he will clip the wings of the popular committees that have outgrown their usefulness and build modern state institutions.

Jallud, the sources add, does not mind the retention of these committees, but only in an advisory rather than executive capacity.

A major point of contention between the two was institutionalizing the state, with al-Qadhafi partial toward the popular committees that have held sway over state agencies for years.

Al-Qadhafi and Jallud are said by the sources to have also differed over foreign policy. Jallud is said to have been particularly resentful of a visit to Jerusalem two years ago by Libyan pilgrims, perceiving it as a kind of currying favor and move toward normalizing ties with Israel.

Salvation Front Foresees 'Positive Developments'

MM0212153494 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 2 Dec 94 p4

[FBIS Translated Text] London, AL-HAYAH—The opposition National Front for the Salvation of Libya [NFSL] has announced the conclusion of the meetings of its Permanent Bureau and leadership body and issued a statement saying that "the Libyan national cause will witness extremely positive developments in the next phase."

The statement dwelt on the situation inside Libya and "the people's deteriorating living conditions." It criticized the policy of "begging mediations and squandering Libyan funds as the price for it, something that exposes the true nature of the regime." It spoke of "the increasing suffering of the political prisoners and detainees," and expressed concern about the fact that "a whole year has passed since the disappearance of Mansur al-Kikhya from the Egyptian capital." It also expressed the NFSL's willingness to "cooperate with all Libyan opposition factions and Libyan, Arab, and international human rights organizations to do whatever is necessary to save al-Kikhya." It said that the first anniversary of his disappearance should be declared "an international day of solidarity with him." The statement also talked about "the case of brothers Jaballah Matar and 'Izzat Yusuf al-Muqaryif."

The statement requested that the international sanctions should target "the Libyan regime in a way that would help the Libyan people get rid of it." It appealed to the international community to refrain from doing anything

that would undermine the Libyan people's interests. It stressed that "relations of cooperation, understanding, and solidarity should prevail among all Libyan patriotic forces." It welcomed "every sincere effort made to bring together and unify the opposition factions." It stressed that "good planning and precise preparation would ensure success of the opposition's efforts in that direction." It gave a reminder of "the draft joint statement agreed by the secretary of the National Alliance, the chairman of the Coordination Committee, and the NFSL secretary general in 1993, the draft that would have led to an opposition congress in November 1993."

Morocco

Egypt's Musa Arrives for Official Visit

Purpose of Visit Detailed

LD0212215494 Rabat RTM Television Network in Arabic 2030 GMT 2 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Within the context of promoting consultation between His Majesty King Hassan II and President Mubarak of Egypt before the convening of the Islamic summit in Casablanca, Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has arrived in Morocco bringing a message from President Mubarak for his majesty the king. The Egyptian official was welcomed on arrival at Mohamed V International Airport by Ahmed Bensouda, the king's adviser; Tayeb el-Fasi el-Fihri, secretary of state for foreign affairs and cooperation; and the governor of Greater Casablanca. [passage omitted]

The Egyptian official made the following statement:

[Begin Musa recording] The visit is to do with delivering a message from President Husni Mubarak to his majesty the king regarding issues of interest to all of us in the Arab world as a whole and the developments that are in progress in the Arab world. The message also concerns the forthcoming Islamic summit and other issues of interest to all Arabs, as well as the matter of Egypt's application for the status of member observer of the Arab Maghreb Union, and other issues that are to be raised in a meeting with his majesty the king. [end recording]

King Hassan Receives Musa

LD0312164394 Rabat Moroccan Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 3 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] At the royal palace in Bouznika at midday today, His Majesty King Hassan II received Mr. 'Amr Musa, Egyptian foreign minister and envoy of Egyptian President Husni Mubarak to his majesty.

His majesty held private talks with the Egyptian foreign minister. During this meeting, Musa also conveyed a private message from his excellency the Egyptian president to his majesty.

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Musa Concludes Visit, Departs

LD0312213894 Rabat RTM Television Network in Arabic 2030 GMT 3 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa left Morocco today after a visit that began yesterday.

In a statement he made in Rabat-Sale airport, he said:

[Begin Musa recording] I had the honor to meet King Hassan II and to convey to him a message from His Excellency President Husni Mubarak concerning coordination between Egypt and Morocco on a number of issues of common and Arab interest. At the forefront of these issues is the forthcoming Islamic summit conference and the situation in the Arab region, Egypt's interest in the AMU [Arab Maghreb Union], and some bilateral matters. I will convey a message from his majesty to President Mubarak immediately after my arrival in Cairo, God willing. [end recording]

Portuguese Official Views Trade Progress

LD0312133294 Rabat MAP in English 1248 GMT 3 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Casablanca, Dec. 2 (MAP)—Relations between Morocco and Portugal recorded a noteworthy progress and trade witnessed a 60 percent increase, said Portuguese Trade Secretary of State Luis Pahlha De Silva.

In an interview with MAP [words indistinct], the Portuguese official, who is visiting Morocco on the occasion of the 'Portugal- Expo 94' held here, said Morocco's exports to Portugal increased by 66 percent while Portuguese exports to Morocco went up by 60 percent. This evolution, he explained, is mainly ascribed to Portuguese enterprises which concluded partnership accords with Moroccan counterparts and [words indistinct] decision to set up new instruments to promote relations with Morocco. He cited as an instance the exhibition of Portuguese products that he described as a major Portuguese concrete action.

Portuguese authorities have also identified new sectors of partnership, mainly in the mining and natural resources sectors as well as the traditional sector of equipment goods, textile and shoes, he added. In Morocco, the targeted sectors are leather, natural products and agricultural produce.

The two countries' businessmen have good relations and the Moroccan-Portuguese Chamber of Commerce is represented in all meetings and initiatives, said the Portuguese secretary of state who lauded the aggressive action of the chamber which was behind several initiatives.

He also seized the opportunity of the interview to welcome the recent opening of a MAP bureau in Lisbon. I think that this office will contribute to promoting

knowledge on the two countries not only among businessmen but also among the two countries public at large.

Sudan

U.S. Interception of Iraqi Vessel Criticized

EA0412203494 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 4 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The foreign relations committee in the Transitional National Assembly has condemned the hostile American action in turning back an Iraqi transport vessel and her crew yesterday.

Professor Muhammad Shakir al-Sarraj, the chairman of the committee, described the hostile action as an attack [word indistinct] which was unjustifiable and arrogant.

The committee called on Arab and Islamic parliaments to resist this hostility and to stand up against this barbaric and irresponsible behavior and to condemn it. [passage omitted]

Al-Turabi on U.S.-Led 'Campaign Against Islam'

LD0312194394 Tehran IRNA in English 1612 GMT 3 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Athens, Dec. 3, IRNA—Sudan's Islamic leader Hasan 'Abdallah al-Turabi said the United States was leading a world campaign against Islam and assailed the West for spreading anti-Sudanese propaganda.

"They are spreading ridiculous rumors about Sudan. They present Sudan as if all of it is terrorist military camps. They spread rumors on the presence of Iranian military experts, even though there is no Iranian in Sudan except the Embassy staff and there is not one Iranian businessman or even tourist," al-Turabi told Saudi weekly AL-MAJALLAH in an interview.

He said the West is incensed because Sudan is being ruled by an Islamic government.

Al-Turabi, who heads the People's Islamic conference, said Washington is opposed to Sudan because the American policy was formed by the State Department and Zionist circles and not by the people. He accused the Americans of smuggling international terrorist Carlos into Sudan in order to discredit the Muslim country in the world. "But the mine of Carlos exploded in favour of Sudan and the U.S. was enraged," he said.

Al-Turabi denied that the war in the south was a religious conflict. He noted that the war began when Sudan was a colony of Britain. Christian rebel leader Garang began his rebellion even before former dictator al-Numayri announced the implementation of Islamic laws, he said.

Commenting on Sudan's good relations with France, al-Turabi explained that France was the only European country which did not take orders from the U.S. and had no colonial legacy in Sudan.

The Islamic leader noted in the 4-page interview that the Sudanese are peace-loving people who do not believe in any kind of sectarianism.

Embassy in UK Condemns Rebel Movement's Claims

EA0112135594 Omdurman National Unity Radio in Arabic 1730 GMT 30 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] A press statement issued by Sudan's Embassy in London has condemned the media statements attributed to leaders of the rebel movement in which they allege they are heroes and reveal their plans to attack government forces' positions. In their statements, the rebels admitted they have obtained military support from a neighboring state and claimed they have occupied positions that are under government control.

The embassy statement denied the allegations and described the rebel movement as trying to gratify those who have put their money on it, namely the enemies of the country, in an attempt to cover up the successive splits within its ranks and the frustration it is also suffering from.

The Sudanese Embassy in Britain's media statement pointed out that the movement's lies and boastfulness, which have become its bywords, are astonishing in that they have cropped up less than two months after it signed an agreement with the government and the United Nations on a cease-fire for securing the arrival of relief convoys. [passage indistinct]

Moroccan Minister Delivers Letter to al-Bashir

EA0312192494 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 3 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The minister of cultural affairs of the Kingdom of Morocco, Mr. Mohamed Allal Sinaceur, arrived in Khartoum this evening on a three-day visit to the country. He was met by the minister of culture and information, Mr. 'Abd-al-Basit Sabdarat.

In a statement to our reporter, the Moroccan official declared that he had brought a letter from the Moroccan monarch addressed to his brother, the president of the Republic, Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir. He said the letter concerned preparations under way to convene a summit of the Islamic Conference Organization in Casablanca in mid-December. His excellency said he was happy to be in Sudan, pointing out that the visit offered him an opportunity to discuss issues of mutual interest, especially in the field of culture.

UN Official Apologizes for Incorrect Refugee Data

EA0312192094 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 3 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Husayn Sulayman Abu-Salih, today in his office received Mrs. Margaret Keefe, the UNHCR representative in Sudan, with whom he discussed the performance of the UNHCR office in Sudan.

The minister referred to the UN secretary general's report on refugees and displaced people and declared that the information it contained on displaced people was incorrect and inaccurate.

He also referred a newsletter issued by the UNHCR in Geneva which stated that there were over 5 million displaced persons in Sudan, that 1 million of them had died, and that many of them faced starvation. The minister reiterated Sudan's stand on this non-binding document and said he rejected it totally.

Mrs. Keefe said the UNHCR had apologized for the incorrect information contained in the document, which, she added, was being reviewed in order to disseminate the correct information soon.

Ummah's Khalil Announces 'National Forces Alliance'

MM0212165494 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 2 Dec 94 p 4

[FBIS Translated Text] London, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Professor Muhammad Ibrahim Khalil, former speaker of the Sudanese parliament and chairman of the "Ummah Party's organizations in exile," has announced the formation of a new organization called the "Sudanese National Forces Alliance" [tafaluf al-quwa al-wataniyah al-sudaniyah] and a charter for this alliance. The announcement was made at a press conference he held in London yesterday evening.

Khalil said that "the call for forming the National Forces Alliance was prompted by the pressing need for serious endeavors to stop the continued deterioration in economic, financial, and social conditions in the country. It was also prompted by the [opposition] Democratic National Grouping's [DNG] failure to perform the mission for which it was established." He said that deteriorating conditions in the country are represented in the failure to achieve peace, the lack of social services, deteriorating economic conditions, and the shortcomings in foreign policy.

He attacked the opposition DNG, saying that the outcome of five and a half years proves its failure. He said: The opposition has failed completely to achieve any progress toward the main aim for which it was established, namely toppling the [National Islamic] Front's regime.

He said that the third experiment of thwarting democracy prompts us to learn from previous lessons and to make the legislative, executive, and political arrangements by drawing up a clear view of the transitional phase that will follow the overthrow of the National Front's regime, and also a view of government under a permanent constitution.

He said that the main intellectual foundation in the National Forces Alliance charter is to adopt a compromise that understands Islam in a moderate way and rejects exaggeration, rigidity, and deviation. He said that the Political National Forces Alliance calls for ruling the country in the future in accordance with a permanent constitution that includes the following main aims and principles:

1. Sudan is a unified state which recognizes racial, religious, linguistic, and cultural multiplicity. And to achieve that, the constitution should stipulate a federal system that believes in the minorities' rights.
2. Freedoms should be guaranteed.
3. Democratic pluralism.
4. Separation of powers.
5. The Armed Forces are the protector of the country's security, constitution, and democratic system.
6. Independence of the judiciary.
7. Independence of the civilian government.

In response to the accusation that he has split the Sudanese opposition abroad, Khalil said: That is untrue, because there is no opposition in the usual sense. There are groups. And the opposition has never been preoccupied with the main issue. Its main concern has been the self-determination issue, which is not included in the grouping's charter, which talks about toppling the regime.

Asked about the figures, quarters, and bodies that have joined the alliance, Khalil said: Reformist tendencies in the various parties have asked for some time to continue their corrective movement.

He declined to name these quarters, saying that "they will emerge in the coming weeks."

As is known, the other political movements raising the slogan of "make the reforms otherwise we split from our parties" have over the past few days announced their refusal to join the alliance announced by Khalil. This is why Khalil could not hold two previous press conferences he had called for.

On the methods of fighting the regime, he said: We have a working plan, means abroad, the unions' support, and a civil disobedience plan.

He said: "...all peaceful and nonpeaceful means. If they incline toward peace, do incline toward peace. [Koranic verse] That is, if the aim can be achieved peacefully. But the Sudanese people must be saved."

He said that the [Sudanese] People's [Liberation] Movement is a young movement and is not excluded from joining the alliance. Nor is any other southern party.

He denied that he has split the the Ummah Party, saying that what has happened abroad strengthens the Ummah Party. On his assessment of conditions inside the country, he said that there is no opposition causing alarm to the regime. He said: The existence of a credible and convincing opposition would raise morale inside the country.

The absence of other figures from the press conference means that Khalil's group has so far not found supporters from the other parties and movements.

Tunisia

Jordanian Prime Minister Visits Top Officials

Conveys Message to Ben 'Ali

LD0212183194 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio
Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 2 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] President Ben 'Ali has received a message from King Husayn of Jordan and the Jordanian crown prince. Jordanian Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali conveyed the message to the president this morning. The Tunisian foreign affairs minister was also present at the meeting.

After the meeting, Mr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali said that talks had focused on developments in the Arab world and that he had briefed President Ben 'Ali on the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty. He added that at the talks they had also discussed the strong brotherly ties between Tunisia and Jordan and the issue of raising coordination between the two countries to the level of a higher committee. The first meeting of this committee will be held in Tunisia and will be attended by himself and ministers of the Jordanian Government, he stated. He added that the meeting will take place after there has been good preparation for raising the level of coordination.

Talks With Counterpart

LD0212185494 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio
Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 2 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Hamed Karoui received Jordanian Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali at the government headquarters in the Casbah this afternoon. Al-Majali made a statement in which he said that the talks dealt with Arab current affairs in the current delicate circumstances marked by fundamental transformations in the Middle East and in the world arena.

The Jordanian prime minister stressed the identical points of view and stances of Jordan and Tunisia on issues of common interest and on the need to remove the tension in inter-Arab relations, bolster solidarity ties, and achieve the unity of Arab ranks, so that the Arab world may occupy a place in the new world order.

Kuwait**Oil Minister Meets Chinese Vice Premier**

LD0212210494 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1930 GMT
2 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Beijing, 2 Dec—China expressed its keenness to bolster bilateral cooperation with the State of Kuwait in the oil industry sector and reiterated support for Kuwaiti rights on the basis of full implementation of United Nations Security Council resolutions related to the war to liberate the emirate.

That statement was made during a meeting between visiting Kuwaiti Oil Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Muhsin Mid'aj and Chinese Vice Premier Zou Jiahua. [passage omitted]

Zou stressed China's keenness to cooperate with Kuwait which was an oil state with a good reputation and had experience in exploring and refining oil and in other fields.

"We are prepared to increase cooperation with Kuwait in the oil sector and others on the basis of current mutual trust," the Chinese official said.

The Kuwaiti oil minister announced that an agreement was reached with Chinese officials to boost cooperation between the two countries in the field of oil production and added: "This cooperation will include exporting oil, its products and petrochemicals to China."

He added that Kuwait was interested in the possibility of setting up joint refineries in China using Kuwaiti crude oil and where Kuwait would participate in the management.

The minister praised the performance of Chinese engineers and workers in putting out oil fires and re-operating Kuwaiti oil field installations after the war to liberate Kuwait ended. He welcomed contributions by specialized Chinese companies in Kuwaiti projects and admired the fast economic growth in China. [passage omitted]

Government Renews Commitment to OPEC Ceiling

LD0412223094 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 2032 GMT
4 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Kuwait City, 4 Dec KUNA—Oil Minister 'Abd al-Muhsin al-Mid'aj has renewed Kuwait's commitment to OPEC's decision to maintain the current production ceiling for another year although, he said, it deprived it of profits it would have made if its requests for a higher quota were met.

On his return from a south Asian tour, during which he attended an OPEC meeting, al-Mid'aj told the Kuwaiti news agency KUNA that "Kuwait had demanded, at the OPEC meeting held in September 1993, an additional 200,000 barrels to its quota of 1 million barrels per day." He added that "Kuwait later accepted the decision to

freeze the production ceiling in order to contribute to the stabilization of the oil market and the rise of oil prices and their growth." [passage omitted]

Regarding a possible rise in oil prices, al-Mid'aj said: "There will be an opportunity in the second quarter of next year if the member states adhere to their respective quotas, and if the demand for oil increases due to the winter season." [passage omitted]

As regards Iraq's possible return to the oil market, al-Mid'aj said: "We look at this from an international angle, therefore the Iraqi regime will have to adhere to all the UN resolutions relating to the liberation of Kuwait and which it is still reluctant to implement unless the oil embargo imposed on it is lifted."

Al-Mid'aj added: "If Iraq adheres to all the resolutions of the international legitimacy, OPEC will examine how Iraq can return to the world oil markets without harming the interests of the member states."

Al-Mid'aj said that OPEC would hold its next regular meeting in Vienna in June 1995, and that the meeting would be a good opportunity to reassess the state of the oil markets in the light of the recent decision. [passage omitted]

On the nature of the oil investments in southeast Asia, al-Mid'aj indicated that 50 percent of Kuwaiti oil exports went to that area, particularly Japan, and that India, Pakistan, and Pakistan [as received] purchased a large quantity of Kuwaiti oil products.

He also said that Kuwait was involved in the gas field venture recently discovered in southern China. This involvement, he added, is through the Kuwaiti Overseas Explorations Company, which holds a 30 percent stake in the venture.

Al-Mid'aj said that Kuwait also owned 52 gas stations in Thailand and that this number could be increased to 76 next July. [passage omitted]

Saudi Arabia**Paper Assails Iranian 'Hostility' Over Islands**

LD0512090394 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0316 GMT
5 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Riyadh, 5 Dec (SPA)—The AL-YAWM newspaper describes the attempt of the Iranian regime to push its nose into internal Gulf matters that concern no one except the GCC [Gulf Cooperation Council] states themselves, and to try to fish in troubled waters by exploiting any slight differences between one Gulf state and another, as a step that shows that Iranian hostility is again posing a threat to the aspirations and hopes of the states of the area.

The paper points out the actions of Tehran in aggravating the crisis of the UAE [United Arab Emirates] islands. Despite Abu Dhabi's repeated attempts to solve

the dispute peacefully through direct negotiations, the Iranian regime persisted in rejecting any negotiations concerning the issue and refused to give up its occupation of the islands, thus confirming that the hostile Iranian regime has been behind a number of conflicts in its attempts to export terrorism to many countries in the world.

The paper concludes by saying that the Iranian regime, which is based on contradiction, represents a hotbed that poses a threat not only to the Gulf area but also to world peace and security.

United Arab Emirates

Gorbachev Arrives in Abu Dhabi for Private Visit
JN0312102994 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0530 GMT
3 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Abu Dhabi, 2 Dec (WAKH)—Mikhail Gorbachev, the last president of the former Soviet Union, arrived in Abu Dhabi tonight on a private visit of several days to the United Arab Emirates [UAE].

During the visit, the former Soviet president will meet with a number of senior UAE officials. He will also deliver a lecture on 4 December entitled "A Future Vision of the Post-Cold-War World and the Information Revolution." The lecture is organized by Emirates Center for Strategic Studies and Research.

Yemen

Salih Chairs Defense Ministry Command Meeting
JN0412201294 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network
in Arabic 1700 GMT 4 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] In the presence of brother Staff Major General 'Abd-Rabbuh Mansur Hadi, vice president, brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic and supreme commander of the Armed Forces, today chaired a meeting of the Defense Ministry command.

During the meeting, they discussed many issues pertaining to the efforts to reconstruct and modernize our Armed Forces and enhance our country's defense capability. They also listened to a number of reports that

assessed the preparation and training of various military formations, forces, units, and departments.

The conferees also carefully discussed the training and rehabilitation of the Armed Forces for 1995 as well as issues related to improving the combat and administrative performance, upgrading the level of preparedness, and working out programs for the moral rehabilitation and national education of the Armed Forces personnel.

The conferees also discussed issues pertaining to defining the ideal size of our Armed Forces in a way that will embody the interest in qualitative construction and bolster our Armed Forces' ability to assume their national duties to defend the homeland's sovereignty, independence, and stability and protect its national achievements and gains. The conferees also discussed many topics on the agenda and made the appropriate decisions.

The brother president and supreme commander addressed the conferees. He lauded the efforts and steps achieved on the path of reconstructing and modernizing the Armed Forces and finalizing their merger on national and scientific bases that will foster national unity, meet the requirements and needs of modern construction, and enhance the homeland's defensive capability.

He stressed the importance of benefiting from all the performance evaluations made during the past phase in order to enhance the positive aspects and avoid the negative aspects, particularly during the battles waged to defend unity, protect democracy and constitutional legitimacy, and confront the secessionist traitors.

The president pointed out that these battles gave rise to important lessons and practical applications which should be utilized for military rehabilitation and preparedness whether in the military colleges, institutes, and schools or in the formations, forces, and units. He also emphasized the importance of focusing on quality and benefiting from the current developments in modern military construction.

Furthermore, he urged the brother officials at the Defense Ministry command to double their efforts in order to speed up construction. He also urged them to take care of the technical aspects and maintenance, prepare the cadres for the required specialties, and proceed with modernizing our Armed Forces toward the sought objectives in a way that will embody the aspirations of building strong and developed Yemeni Armed Forces that can always assume their national duties.

U.S. 'Military Aggression' Against Ships Reported**Official Spokesman Condemns Act***JN0312122594 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 3 Dec 94*

[Statement issued by "an official spokesman" to the IRAQI NEWS AGENCY; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] At 2045 [1745 GMT] on 1 December 1994, the United States carried out a military aggression against the Iraqi water tanker al-Tharthar and the tugboat al-Hijran near the al-Mina' al-'Amiq Port. Three U.S. helicopter gunships carried out a landing operation over the tanker and tugboat. Ten U.S. troops took part in the operation. They opened fire on the crewmen of the tanker and tugboat, which were steered along with their crewmen 20 miles southward, accompanied by a U.S. military vessel. Some Iraqi crewmen were beaten by the attacking U.S. military force. After the crewmen were interrogated about the tanker's length and width, cargo, number of crewmen, and ownership, the tanker and the tugboat were released at 1730 on 2 December 1994. They returned to their former positions.

This new unwarranted military aggression is a violation of the provisions of the UN Charter and international law and a violation of the cease-fire. This act reflects the U.S. determination to take any opportunity to attack Iraq and to violate its waters, territory, and airspace.

Condemning this aggressive act, we hold the United States fully responsible for its consequences. We demand that the United Nations, represented by the UN Security Council and the secretary general, condemn such acts and take the appropriate measures to put an end to them.

UN Ambassadors Briefed*JN0312200994 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1932 GMT 3 Dec 94*

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 3 Dec (INA)—Iraq has urged the UN Security Council to condemn the new U.S. aggression on Iraqi ships and take the appropriate measures so that similar acts will not take place in the future.

Hamid Yusuf Hammadi, minister of culture and information and acting foreign minister, received the ambassadors of the UN Security Council member states accredited to Iraq here this evening. He briefed them on the dimensions of the flagrant U.S. aggression on the Iraqi ships in Iraqi territorial waters. He also briefed them on the encroachments by U.S. military troops upon the ships' crew members, who were interrogated without any justification.

The Iraqi acting foreign minister described the new U.S. aggression as an attempt to escalate the situation (?in violation of) the UN Charter's stipulations and bases, the

articles of international law, and the bases of the cease-fire. He held Washington fully responsible for the repercussions of this aggression.

Hammadi asserted that through its new and unjustified aggression, the United States has clearly confirmed its insistence on seizing any opportunity to encroach upon Iraq's sovereignty and violate its waters, territory, and airspace. He said that this U.S. military aggression is a provocation and muscle flexing, which implies an attempt to escalate the situation, thus harming the Security Council and its good relations with Iraq.

On Thursday, three U.S. helicopter gunships carried out a landing operation on the Iraqi water tanker al-Tharthar and the tugboat al-Hijran.

An official Iraqi spokesman today said that 10 U.S. troops opened fire on the crew members of the two ships after escorting them for 20 miles southward, accompanied by a U.S. naval vessel. The spokesman said some crew members were beaten and interrogated by the U.S. troops.

Tugboat Captain Recounts Operation*JN0512120894 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0920 GMT 5 Dec 94*

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 5 Dec (INA)—The Iraqi sailors who were on board the water tanker al-Tharthar and the tugboat al-Hijran have described as uncivilized the arrogant demeanor and muscle-flexing demonstrated by U.S. Navy personnel, even though the U.S. aggressors profess to be agents of civilized conduct.

The newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH today recounts statements by these sailors, who said the U.S. aggressors acted as "cowboys" during the sinful aggression.

Hazim Dahham Nasr, captain of the tugboat al-Hijran, which was the target of an act of piracy on 1 December, said the tugboat is assigned the task of providing maritime services in the Mina' al-Bakr and al-Mina' al-'Amiq, carrying crewmen from shore to their vessels and vice versa, and providing them with rations and technical equipment. We have been doing this for one year, he noted. At 1630 on Thursday [1 December], our tugboat was anchored one nautical mile south of al-Mina' al-'Amiq, to take its fill of drinking water from the water tanker al-Tharthar.

The captain added: While the water reservoirs of the tugboat were connected with the water tanker al-Tharthar, three U.S. helicopters, along with a U.S. frigate designated by the number 30, approached us. Having surrounded us, the three helicopters and frigate carried out a landing operation on the tugboat. From my control turret, I saw six armed men climbing down a rope that dangled from one of the helicopters. They were heavily armed. Once they landed on the surface of the water tanker, they began yelling. They beat the sailors working on the surface of the tanker. Afterward, a

similar landing operation was carried out on the surface of the tugboat by the other two helicopters. The landing group personnel approached my assistant. Ten soldiers carried out the landing operation. The first thing they did was beat me. Then, they handcuffed me, pushed me to the ground, and searched the tugboat under the threat of arms. Then, they held the other sailors in the vessel's lounge.

The captain went on to say: The pirates were reinforced by other men who came from the frigate to the tugboat via rubber dinghies. They stringently searched all sailors. Even the wastebaskets and toilets were searched. Having done this, they handcuffed the sailors, using plastic chains they brought with them.

The captain of the tugboat said: Then, one of the landing group men asked who the tugboat's captain was. I introduced myself. Then, he said: We are carrying out these landing operations because we have suspicions about the tugboat, especially since it is anchored near the tanker al-Tharthar. Fortunately, the drinking water hoses used by the tanker were still connected when the landing operation was carried out. I replied, saying: Thus, you must have realized that the tanker was only providing the tugboat with water.

The captain added: Having interrogated me and conducted their searches, they asked me to accompany them to an inspection point 26 nautical miles away from the al-Mina' al-Amiq. I rejected their demand, because our going there requires nautical guidance maps, which we did not possess. But, under the threat of arms and firing in the air, they forced the tugboat and the tanker al-Tharthar to move to the inspection point under the guard of the frigate and the three helicopters.

When we were 10 nautical miles away from the inspection point, I was asked to stop the tugboat. I supplied the name of the tugboat, its nationality and specifications, the nationalities of its crewmen, the type of job they do, and the kinds of services it offers. I was also asked whether we had on board any kinds of animals or chemical material. At 0730 the next day, seven soldiers searched the vessel once again. The search operation continued until 1530 that day. The inspectors drew fuel, drinking water, ballast water, and firefighting foam samples. They also obtained the specifications of the communication equipment used by the tugboat. Moreover, they photographed the vessel. Having done all this, they allowed us to leave. The tanker al-Tharthar and its sailors went through the same ordeal experienced by the tugboat al-Hijran and its sailors.

'Act of Piracy' Shows Policy Failure

JN0512080494 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0720 GMT
5 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 5 Dec (INA)—The newspaper AL-THAWRAH has stated that the United States, using blind terrorism, gangsterism, and banditry,

is attempting to serve notice to the world that it is still capable of flexing its muscles in spite of the failure of its anti-Iraq schemes and its Bosnia policy.

In a commentary today on the fresh U.S. act of piracy carried out against the Iraqi water tanker "al-Tharthar" and the tugboat "Muhayjiran" last Thursday (1 December), the paper adds that this act of aggression definitely demonstrates U.S. confusion, which has become a hallmark of Washington's conduct, as manifested in its reactions to the successive failures and disappointments its policies have met on the international scene.

The paper goes on to say: Washington will not hesitate to carry out any stupidity it thinks it might halt international changes and keep the vestiges of prestige it enjoys here or there. To achieve this objective, it will not be deterred by any laws, sanctities, or rules governing inter-state relations.

The paper says: This act on Washington's part was meant to allow it to enormously confuse the Iraq issue, as well as Iraq's relationship with the UN Security Council, in the hope that it will be able to create a loophole which it wants to use to sabotage this relationship and kill the efforts to achieve security and stability in the Gulf region, which enjoy the support of more than one super-power.

The paper concludes by urging the UN Security Council and big powers to confront U.S. aggressions in order to uphold international legitimacy, restore international balance, and establish stability in the region.

'Aziz Comments on Blockade, U.S. Position

JN0212211794 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1845 GMT
2 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 2 Dec (INA)—Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz has asserted that Iraq is a creative living force capable of continuing its steadfastness, sacrifices, and creativity.

During an open dialogue, carried on Iraqi television, with the chief editors of newspapers, the heads of information departments, and a number of journalists, writers, and those interested in political affairs, as well as representatives of the National Assembly, 'Aziz added that the blockade will not last much longer now.

He explained that, as President Saddam Husayn asserted, the basis is the steadfastness. God be praised, steadfastness is now a reality that is clear before the world.

The dialogue addressed many issues related to the blockade and the relationship with the Security Council. Taking part in the dialogue were: Hani Wuhayyib, chief editor of AL-QADISIYAH; Taha al-Basri, chief editor of AL-THAWRAH; Dr. Safa' al-'Umar, head of the Arab and International Relations Committee at the National Assembly; Amir al-Hulu, chief editor of ALIF BA'; Dr.

Sabah Yasin, director general of the Radio and Television Department; Nasrallah al-Dawudi, chief editor of AL-'IRAQ; 'Udayy al-Ta'i, director general of INA; Badrakhan al-Sindi, director general of the Kurdish Culture and Publication House; Dr. Salman Zaydan, a writer; and Salah al-Mukhtar, chief editor of AL-JUMHURIYAH.

Hani Wuhayyib, chief editor of AL-QADISIYAH: It is known that Iraq has fulfilled its commitments in accordance with the UN Security Council resolutions. What is taking place now, however, is that the U.S. Administration and those cooperating with it, as well as some other states, are playing a discordant tune to the effect that Iraq should comply with all relevant resolutions. I would like to have an explanation on the steps Iraq has taken in addressing these resolutions. What are the fabricated U.S. pretexts on this issue?

Tariq 'Aziz: Before going into the details of this question, I would like to brief you on the progress of events as they took place after the Iraqi decision to recognize both Kuwait and the [Iraqi-Kuwaiti] border. This decision was made on 10 November. The date for review was 14 November, three or four days after the Iraqi decision was announced.

When we arrived in New York, we, along with the member states sympathizing with and understanding the Iraqi position, did not have enough time to prepare for the debate which was slated for 14 November. Moreover, the Security Council president used a tactic to address this issue. This tactic was to separate the periodic review, which looks at the system of the blockade, from addressing the Iraqi decision. This separation was not acceptable to all members. However, on that day a dispute or a serious discussion began at the council regarding the states that wished to welcome the Iraqi decision and to have the council take steps proportionate to the importance of this decision. They also approved this formal separation by the council president so she could discuss the reactions in a complex manner. Hence, the meeting on the review ended on 14 November, and a discussion began on the reactions of the states that have a viewpoint. These states did not change their views or take into consideration this formal separation. They also linked the position which Iraq made on 10 November to the situation as a whole and also to the council's position on both Iraq and the blockade.

Discussions continued, and sometimes these discussions were heated. Representatives of several countries returned to their capitals to receive instructions. Strict instructions have been passed to some countries saying that the importance of the decision should not be underestimated because the desire of the council president—who is the U.S. representative—with British support, was to send a message to the Iraqi foreign minister in which they say: We received the decision and have been acquainted with it. This was the U.S. plan, and during the three days of deliberations, a new picture initially

appeared at the council that was not a surprise to us. It was the same old picture but with positive development in favor of Iraq.

As for the questions on the resolution which Iraq should implement, as they say, there have been two factors in the previous stage: the legal and technical factor, if that is the correct term, and the political factor.

The political factor is known, and that is that there is one state—the United States—which is launching a tendentious campaign against Iraq. It says that no matter what Iraq does, and regardless of how much of the Security Council resolutions it implemented, it is not enough and we always cast doubts about Iraqi positions, and all pretexts will be used to perpetuate the blockade and to harm Iraq—people and state.

There is another trend in the council, which was a minority at the beginning, but with the passage of time became a majority. It is a trend that has no specific hostile objective toward Iraq, but says that these resolutions had been adopted in accordance with Chapter 7, so these resolutions are binding and Iraq should implement them. They add that when we believe or see that Iraq has implemented what is essential and serious from these resolutions, they will not stand against the lifting of the blockade. Furthermore, some of them have called for lifting the blockade, although to varying degrees and in accordance with the ability of their countries and their political positions on the lifting of the blockade.

The recognition of Kuwait initiated a serious discussion at the council, and there was a majority that wanted to welcome the Iraqi decision openly and to describe it as important and as one of the important and essential steps opening the way for lifting the blockade. On the other hand, and contradictory to this position, which constituted the majority, there was the U.S. position which cast doubts about Iraq's position and said that it is true that this was a step, but Iraq made this step because the council was united and forced Iraq to make it, although it was clear to the fair-minded—and this is what we emphasized in our deliberations with the council members—that we did not make this step under intimidation. The Iraqi leadership made this step following constructive and positive dialogue with a number of council member states that have fair and objective positions, especially with the Russian side, which took the initiative by making direct contact with the leadership in Baghdad during Minister Kozyrev's visit and his meeting with the president.

'Aziz continued: This is why the Iraqi command made this decision while the Americans want to portray that it was made under pressure and, therefore, it should not lead to a step that would open the blockade file.

During the periodic review sessions or in later discussions Russia, France, and China linked this decision and the blockade issue.

The countries that have adopted a fair stand base this stand on the legal interpretation of the resolutions. That is why they say that Iraq has fulfilled its basic commitments concerning the UN Security Council resolutions, that is it has implemented Resolution 687, particularly the aspects dealing with armament or what they refer to as Section C, Resolution 715, and the recent resolution that was passed on 10 November.

They say that there are also the other parts of the resolutions. There is the question of continuing to cooperate with the Special Commission and the International Atomic Energy Agency to complete the monitoring system and the information needed. These countries say that they are waiting for the report that is intended to be submitted next April and for a follow up on the issue of the missing persons within the framework of the Red Cross, and the return of properties. Some insist on these topics while others know that these issues are being tackled within an agreed upon framework with the United Nations. Most countries do not approach these issues as obstructions, but issues that should be dealt with and to which solutions should be found until everything is settled and then the blockade file will be opened.

With respect to the U.S. side, things are different there. The U.S. side has another list, which is obscure. The United States has no genuine desire to open the blockade file. It seeks to confuse the issues to deceive the UN Security Council and international public opinion. When the United States speaks of Resolutions 688, 706, or 712, it does not do so because of a legal and technical aspect and because Iraq should deal with them if it wants the blockade to be lifted, but it speaks about them to confuse the issue and cloud the stands in the UN Security Council. This is the stand of the majority because the majority abides by the legal interpretation of the resolutions and they say that what has been accomplished so far opens the way to an objective discussion of the issue of the blockade one way or the other. The basic idea has been submitted in the council in a clear manner and in public statements.

Taha al-Basri, AL-THAWRAH chief editor: The debate about the embargo all too often is politically or legally slanted, rarely addressing the economic side, save by specialized personnel or bodies. I think the economic aspect comes in when discussing U.S. intransigence. The embargo, in particular the ban on oil sales, is all about economics. Is the U.S. intransigence attributable to the possibility of Iraqi oil returning to the market, especially given that the United States has secured its oil needs from the Gulf states, particularly Saudi Arabia and Kuwait?

Mr. Tariq 'Aziz: This is a crucial question, and yet it is being held out and not brought up in the UN Security Council debates. It has been addressed in journals specializing on oil. You may remember that in a live interview with CNN last July, I was asked to try to

explain the U.S. position. I said then that oil was at the heart of the issue. The crisis began with oil and oil remains the root cause. With Iraq absent from the oil market over the past [four] years, the United States ordered Saudi Arabia and Kuwait to raise their production. Saudi Arabia now produces over 8 million barrels per day. At the same time, contracts worth billions of dollars are concluded now and then, and these are paid for in oil.

When Iraqi oil comes back into the stream, we will have one of two choices: Either these nations stick to the current production level and so when fresh supplies come into the market, prices go down, or cut prices or output in order to stabilize prices. In any case, these nations' incomes will fall and so too will their ability to settle their bills to the United States and the United Kingdom.

This is the true state of affairs that is discussed behind the scenes and which the United States cannot debate in public, since this would have exposed its true position. It is hiding behind the contention that Iraq has not fulfilled the UN resolutions and it raises such issues as the human rights of the Iraqi people, etc.

The hollowness of these allegations is being progressively exposed. In our discussions with UN Security Council members, we point out these key issues. This stand is not compatible with the interests of the majority of the Security Council members, because they have no interest in excluding Iraq from the oil market and maintaining the blockade on it. Rather, it is in their interest to lift it.

When we take the stands of Russia, China, Brazil, Spain, Pakistan, [word indistinct], and other Security Council member countries, we see that they have an interest in lifting the blockade. They had interests in Iraq, companies that worked in Iraq, and extensive trade with it. Iraq has debts due for settlement, and it is committed in principle to settle them. The majority of the Security Council—or a large bloc that includes at least three permanent members and three non-permanent members that are nonetheless important geographically—have an interest in lifting the blockade. They believe that the most appropriate solution to the problem of prices is to restore the production ceiling and shares to their 1990 levels.

According to my information, all the oil producing countries, with the exception of Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, want Iraq to return to the oil market because it is a stabilizing factor.

I remember that President Saddam Husayn has been warning, since the early seventies, against leaps in prices, because they would cause an imbalance in the market. These are things that we do not forget.

Dr. Safa' al-'Umar, chairman of the Arab and international relations committee in the National Assembly: There are three major countries in the Security Council

seeking to lift the blockade in one way or another. Is there a common thinking to submit a joint plan to the Security Council that will be more forceful than one presented by one country only? That's one part. The second is that your talk is focusing on the United States. We and the Iraqi citizen know that, after four years of aggression against us, the United States has started thinking in another way, namely whether it is possible to change the regime. The issue of impeding the implementation of Clause 22 of Resolution 687 is the constant basic objective. As you said, the United States understands that Iraq represents a factor of military, economic, and political stability in the region. I believe that there are people in the U.S. Administration and among businessmen and economists who understand this truth and realize that the United States certainly has an interest in the region's oil, including Iraqi oil. Has the Iraqi leadership or government thought of creating means of contact with U.S. circles that have a purely U.S. viewpoint, and not a Zionist one?

Tariq 'Aziz: I noted at the beginning that the time between making the decision to recognize Kuwait and the review was very short. Consequently, the friendly countries that understand Iraq's stand and have the desire to lift the siege, if this is the right expression, did not have enough time to propose a [word indistinct] plan during the review, just ideas on this issue.

Following or during the Security Council deliberations and in the contacts made with us or from the Russian ambassador's statements, the notion was raised that supervision has started at the beginning of October and that the report presented by Ekeus before November was positive and said that Iraq has fulfilled the main, fundamental commitment demanded by the Security Council, namely recognition of Kuwait and its borders. Therefore, these things are opening the way to review the blockade. There are issues that have not been completed yet and need to be followed up. Why shouldn't we think of suspension, that is, make a decision that Clause 22 be implemented in the form of "suspension" and not lifting. Practically, this means that Clause 22 be implemented and the suspension continued until Ekeus presents his report six months after the start of the monitoring, that is next April, and the Security Council will then review the situation and see if things are progressing satisfactorily and move from suspension to lifting.

The Russian ambassador based this proposal on the Yugoslav model, where there are sanctions and a blockade that is not exactly similar to that imposed on Iraq but is, nonetheless, tough. Following the stand taken by the Yugoslav Government and the Serbian leadership regarding the case of Bosnia, which was satisfactory to the European states, the Russians, under a European endeavor, presented a proposal to lift the sanctions on Yugoslavia. A decision was in fact made to suspend some of the measures imposed on Yugoslavia. Now I cannot answer this question because it depends on the other countries, which are busy now. If we view the

international arena we will find that Russia and the Europeans are preoccupied with Bosnia. I cannot judge in this matter, for perhaps when I talk to the foreign minister of this or that country he will say: I am busy and cannot launch two battles at the same time. But inevitably we will raise this issue at the time of the official review in January.

Concerning the second part of the question, whether there is coordination among these parties, there will be a debate in January and draft resolutions, ideas, and formulas will have to be presented. From the years 1968, 1969, 1970 until the year 1990, we were in contact and met with the world community and with major political figures in power, including analysts. None would give you an answer about the U.S. Administration's precise goal in this regard. It is being said that the U.S. Administration is afraid of opening Iraq's file in a positive way by entering into a dialogue with Iraq and resolving the problems. But it is clear now that not only has the card of changing the regime or the leadership fallen, it also has become absurd. Even they admit it. And this is what you notice when you read the NEW YORK TIMES or a U.S. or British paper, and I am referring particularly to the press in these two countries, because they are actually the ones behind this undertaking.

Regarding the question of interests, it is true that there are forces in the United States and persons with interests who tell the U.S. Administration that Iraq is an important country, one that ranks second in terms of oil reserves in the world, and may be first. You have put it under siege at present but inevitably it will be lifted. It will stay for a year, two, three, etc., but it will be lifted. So, where is our share and what about our interests? There is such talk, but it is being suppressed by elements in the U.S. Administration, particularly by Clinton's immediate advisers in the White House. The editorial of the NEW YORK TIMES in the (?past) reflected this school, if I may use this term. This school is not made up of businessmen only. It is a political school that says enough to continuing this policy, which is harmful to the United States, and that there are interests for the United States that must be considered. Our position is that we deal with all the countries of the world, including the United States, on the basis of mutual respect and joint interests. We do not have a "veto" on dealing with America. We have dealt with America, under the same leadership of President Leader Saddam Husayn, over the past 25 years.

This is our policy. We dealt with the United States and established diplomatic and economic relations with it and in other fields on the basis of mutual respect and common interests. If the United States wishes to open a dialogue with Iraq on this basis then we welcome it. This is not the first time I have announced this, because it is known to many U.S. circles. We welcome a dialogue. During my recent trip in September, I went to the U.S. Foreign Affairs Council in New York and spoke with them, and I met a large number of known journalists and writers.

During the recent short visit, I met with the TIME magazine and the CBS editorial boards. I was asked many questions, including some on this issue. We answered them by saying that we are ready to establish relations based on respect for sovereignty and non-intervention in internal affairs and also on respect for common interests. Of course, this makes it incumbent upon the United States to change its stand. Another question might derive from this question, namely will the United States change its stand? From my experience, I cannot be certain that the United States will not change its stand, because it changed its stand on Bosnia in the past two days. It was committed to an intransigent stand on which no agreement was reached. Those in the U.S. Administration took a stand on the basis of the new developments that arose in Bosnia in the past few days.

At any rate and as the president has stressed, steadfastness is the basic thing. When we stand fast, they will in the end change their stand. Thank God that steadfastness has become a clear fact before the whole world. Some people change [their stand] early and this is the correct position while others tarry and they shoulder the responsibility.

Dr. Sabah Yasin: What about the British stand, which at times appears to be leading and at other appears to be behind in the shadows?

Tariq 'Aziz: In Security Council deliberations and in the statements made by the British ambassador, the British stand is almost identical to the U.S. one. But there are other aspects to this. When I invite Britain's UN ambassador to come to my residence for a talk, he comes and we talk, discuss, or differ. All of this is conveyed back to his government. We do not have an undeclared or covert stand, but rather there is the official stand that appears in the statements. There is a stand resulting from dialogue. The argument sometimes reaches London. Some of Britain's partners in the European Union are saying—and these are their words—that the British stand is essentially not identical to the U.S. one but that Britain is committed to backing the U.S. stand.

The observation that Britain sometimes appears to be more intransigent is correct. It has adopted the same U.S. stand in all its dimensions since August 1990. But Britain has more political experience in the region's policies and situation than the United States. The political decision-making process in Britain is easier than in the United States. In Britain there is the prime minister and the foreign secretary, who can easily reach agreement on some political course. There is a stable government with a majority in parliament. Its party goes along with it to a great extent. But in the United States, we are not being unfair to it when we say that there is what can be called a "clamor." Every department has its own policy. There are power centers, the Congress, and the press. Therefore, the decision-making process in U.S. foreign policy is more complicated, more difficult, and less balanced than the decision-making process in

Britain. The difference between the two stands is the knowledge and the ability to make decisions.

Mr. Amir al-Hulu: There is an opinion that says that the French and Russian position, despite the major positive developments that have taken place in recent time, does not rise to the level of a political collision with the United States within the Security Council and that the resolutions passed fall within the general U.S. trend.

Tariq 'Aziz: The idea of collision and tension [al-sukhunah] in relations ended with the end of the Cold War and gave rise to a new formula, which is interpreted by some as U.S. hegemony toward everybody. Thus, what the United States says must be implemented. This is wrong. It is also wrong to imagine that Russia, China, or France will enter into a hot dispute with the United States, not just on Iraq, but on issues that are of concern to them too. So, there is an equation. There is a difference in interests. There is a difference in political stands and in political views regarding several European and international issues, including the question of Iraq. There is a clear variation between the Russian and the U.S. positions and between the French and U.S. positions. Of course, the United States on its own remains stronger than any of these, but when various powers inside and outside the Security Council gear up in a certain direction, the U.S. position becomes weaker, and this is acknowledged.

When you read THE NEW YORK TIMES you find it says that the U.S. position is in the minority. THE ECONOMIST also says that the U.S. position is in the minority. So, the U.S. position regarding Iraq has become the minority view in the Security Council. First, how long will the United States resist the views of the majority of permanent and non-permanent members? It could obstruct or delay things, but it cannot resist until the bitter end.

A question arose about the right of veto and the fact that it has not been used for 10 years, since the mid-eighties and the arrival of Gorbachev. There is no longer a veto but a consensus, and consensus is a very hard and complicated process. If a majority is formed within the Security Council to adopt new measures to lift the blockade on Iraq and the United States uses its veto, others will use it too. Thus, the Security Council will revert to what it used to be in the past, and this is not what the United States wants, because it wants to keep an important part of its policy within the framework of the UN or it will be compelled to go along with the opinion of the majority.

This situation could happen. I do not want to specify the time, but it will have to happen. If the United States persists blindly in its position at the expense of the views and interests of the majority of states, then a crisis will result, not only between Iraq and the United States but between the United States and countries which the latter needs in other fields and areas. But we do not expect collision in the sense of collision. The deliberations that

took place during the past months had a significance. Russian remarks both inside and outside the [Security] Council, the statements by French officials and the French foreign minister, including the article he wrote in the *HERALD TRIBUNE*, and the position of China, on the other hand, indicate that the goals of blockades imposed on countries must be defined and that the Council must change the system of blockades and improve it when the country involved implements it.

Second, Security Council resolutions should not be used to impose policies of a unilateral nature. If the United States wants to boycott Iraq and Cuba, then this is not a Security Council resolution. The country that wants to deal with Cuba can do so. This trend is putting pressure on the United States, but it certainly will not reach the point of a collision. Collision should not necessarily be the way. There is constant pressure from a group that is part of the West and another group which is not part of it. Additionally, pressure from the international community could possibly have results.

Nasrallah al-Dawudi: Should the Russians propose the suspension of the blockade? What are the chances of its success?

Tariq 'Aziz: The Russians have made this proposal on the basis of a precedent in which they succeeded. It is true that the U.S. resistance to changing the so-called sanctions on Yugoslavia is not similar to our case, but that resistance is not inconsiderable. The U.S. stand against Serbia is very extremist yet they have agreed because there is a precedent. This opens the way. There will be a new formation in the Security Council next year when five countries leave and are replaced by five others. Some of the countries are new to this issue, such as Botswana and Honduras, and we have contacted them.

There is political struggle and extensive diplomatic action but it is not possible to neglect our cause or the cause of lifting the blockade. U.S. resistance to it is not as easy as it was two or three years ago. The United States is bound to become weary of putting up obstacles. The countries that have an interest will also continue their efforts because they do not exercise this stand on principle. Yes, there is some content based on principle, and we should encourage this. But there are interests, and each country is bound to defend its interests.

Dr. Sabah Yasin: What are the possibilities of making more Iraqi political and diplomatic moves to present the Iraqi viewpoint, because the atmosphere in 1994 allows a presentation of the Iraqi viewpoint backed by strong justifications for solidarity with Iraq on the issue of lifting the sanctions?

Tariq 'Aziz: I believe that the coming stage is bound to witness very important activities on our part. These activities, both official and popular ones, have already started to bear fruit, because things are getting near the end.

'Udayy al-Ta'i: There was much talk recently, especially in the European and French press in particular, that it is not in Europe's interest to continue to weaken Iraq, particularly as there is another country, Iran, in the region. What is your assessment of this issue? Have you at least noted that there is such a view in Europe, specifically during your recent visit to Spain?

Tariq 'Aziz: The problem of U.S. policy is that, when an administration comes to power, it brings with it amateurs, not professionals. An amateur might come up with a theory that the administration then follows and adheres to. One of the ridiculous theories brought forward by an amateur professional Zionist with ulterior motives, Martin Indyk, is the theory of "dual containment" of Iraq and Iran. There is no one in Europe who respects this theory.

I spoke about this theory on two occasions. At the Foreign Affairs Council in New York I asked them what containment is? There is no containment of Iran because it is not under blockade; it sells oil and buys what it wants to buy. When you do not want to sell to it, it buys from Korea or from another country. As for Iraq, yes you are harming its people and children, but we are a people who have rights and, although this is a criminal act, we are capable of steadfastness and defiance. We have rebuilt our country after you had dropped on us more than 100,000 tons of explosives from the extreme north to the extreme south. You did not leave a single important or vital civilian site without striking it and without us rebuilding it. So how could you contain it? This is nonsense. This theory is now starting to erode because nobody is convinced anymore that it could bring about positive results. They admit and realize that Iraq and its leadership are one and the same thing and that Iraq cannot be ignored. When they talked about their evil goals in changing the national leadership in Iraq and the national regime, this was not to belittle Iraq or ignoring its regional role and weight, but they wanted to deal with an agent who would follow their orders and implement what they wanted done. They are dealing with a country, a people, a regime, a leadership, and a leader that are all in harmony as far as their national and independent position is concerned. There is no escape from this, and they must deal with Iraq because the region cannot be stable unless there is a unified and strong Iraq that plays a role, and they don't grant this role to Iraq. This has been Iraq's role from the days of Nebuchadnezzar up until today, and this is what the strategists admit. This admission has now started to surface more because of the fall of the first scheme and the first goal, in addition to the efforts now being exerted to bring down the technical and legal prettexts and, consequently, raise the question of Iraq's return to play its role in a clearer way and have the blockade on it lifted. All Europeans say: We need a strong, stable, and unified Iraq for fear of a breakdown of the situation in the region. I do not want on this occasion to get into a criticism of the regimes surrounding Iraq. We are in an analytical debate here and, regardless of the official position, I say that the countries and regimes that

have joined the game of conspiring against and harming Iraq in the past have not become stronger than they were before 1990. This is not just something I am saying; analysts in the *SUNDAY TIMES* and *THE WASHINGTON POST* have said it, too. We must mention here that these regimes have become weaker than in the past. If the issue of weakening Iraq continues, where will the region head and where is it now? We know that they want to harm us and that they do not like us because we are nationalistic and independent-minded. So, the region must be kept in balance and be stable. This requires that Iraq return to its natural position and natural role.

Dr. Salman Zaydan: Are there prospects for lifting, or suspending, the blockade? This question was raised by an elderly Iraqi lady during a family conversation today?

Mr. Tariq 'Aziz: I will answer in my capacity as a citizen and a member of the party leadership. I tell this lady who put the question to you and I tell all Iraqis that as long as the leader exists—praise be to God—as long as the leadership exists and as long as Iraq remains safe, the blockade will be lifted. This is because the battle, meaning the question of the blockade, is not a diplomatic game that requires, say, a diplomatic expert to come and handle it. It is a matter of a struggle for survival for Iraq to be or not to be. Iraq, thank God, proved in the past four years of aggression and blockade that it exists, not in the sense of mere existence as a name on the region's map, but as an active, dynamic, and innovative power that is capable of making further contribution and innovation. This is not propaganda coming from a member of a regional command or a Ba'thist writer but an acknowledged fact.

As long as these noble Iraqi traits remain and as long as the country's leader and symbol remains—thanks be to God and we pray to Him to prolong his life—then this lady can rest assured. From the political and diplomatic angle, the prominent aspect of this issue is that the blockade cannot continue. The president has said on past occasions that the longer stage is over and the shorter one remains. We are in the final, third part of Ramadan. True, some people have interpreted this as 10 days or 10 weeks, but what is meant is that much has passed and only a little is left. How long will this little last? Will it last two weeks, six weeks, three months, four months, or more? This depends on several factors. The basic factor is the pillar on which the stand is based: Iraq, Iraq's leadership, and Iraq's leader. The second helpful point is what we have talked about. By this, I mean the country's stands, our activities, and our contacts. All of these bring results. We are, in the first place, Ba'thist strugglers who are basically optimistic. We are optimistic at the harshest of times from the professional political view, if the expression is right. True, I have made a modest contribution to these two things, but I say, yes, I am optimistic.

Salah al-Mukhtar: Many are asking about the link between embarking on the settlement steps and the

proposed time periods for the monitoring tests and then the partial lifting of the economic blockade. I would like to hear your comments on this?

Tariq 'Aziz: I have heard such talk. This might be one of the theories. However, to be accurate, I cannot adopt it, nor do I have the information to be able to reject it. When you asked about certain things, I gave clear answers based on information and clear analysis. But here I cannot adopt this theory, nor do I have enough information to reject it. There might be at times a nominal closeness between one case and another but this nominal closeness should not necessarily be an objective or fundamental one. When you asked me about the oil issue, the oil issue is clear. The reasons for impeding the return of Iraqi oil to the world oil market, which we explained, are clear. But this issue is not clear.

The settlement process and the definitions [tahdidat] set for it in months or weeks are presumptive definitions. According to my information and through my observations, I cannot know their basis for agreement nor when they will agree. But it appears that the timing is being delayed. The start of the six-month period proposed by Ekeus in September 1993 continued to be deferred.

Hani Wahib: We want a clarification about the Arab stand, especially since Saudi Foreign Minister Sa'ud al-Faysal stated several days ago in the name of the Gulf Cooperation Council that relations could be normalized with Iraq. When asked about the possibilities of what they term changing the regime, he said that this is an internal affairs. This is contrary to the tone and declared political stands of Saudi Arabia and most of the Gulf states. Is there a diplomatic and political effort toward some Arab countries, and would these countries take positive stands and take the initiative of breaking the blockade or something of that sort?

Tariq 'Aziz: The decision made on 10 November certainly strengthens the stand of those Arab countries, which were in the majority, that had adopted a balanced and objective stand. When we go back to the beginning of the crisis, we find that the majority of the Arab countries that backed an Arab and balanced solution to the problem at the time have maintained their good relations with Iraq. Their stands have been balanced, and they like to help as much as they can. Some of them have the resources; others do not. This decision has strengthened and bolstered their stand. The other countries that adopted biased stands and participated in the aggression and in all the past attempts to harm Iraq now find themselves in a difficult position. I want to mention and make note of a fact, namely that this is not an accusation or propaganda. These countries are not stronger than they were and are now more embarrassed than they were before, because Iraq has implemented its technical and legal commitments. World public opinion is increasingly moving toward recognizing what Iraq has achieved. The wise ones among them are supposed to prepare themselves for the coming stage. I cannot judge

the contents of Sa'ud al-Faysal's statement. He is the son of his own environment which is made up of the factors we have already explained.

'Aziz Reportedly To Visit Russia, France

NC0312102594 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0840 GMT
3 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Baghdad, 3 Dec (MENA)—An official Iraqi source has stated that Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz will visit Russia and France soon.

The source told a MENA correspondent in Baghdad that the visit is part of an Iraqi effort to have the economic embargo on Iraq lifted. [passage omitted]

Former Intelligence Head Urges Jihad Against Saddam

NC0312182194 Paris AFP in English 1521 GMT
3 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Nicosia, Dec 3 (AFP)—The former head of Iraq's military intelligence who joined opposition groups in Iraqi Kurdistan has called for a holy war or jihad to overthrow President Saddam Husayn.

In a letter addressed to "the Iraqi people and the armed forces" Wafiq al-Samarra'i urged them to "overthrow the criminal clique and to get rid of all forms of injustice and oppression."

"The jihad against Saddam is a legitimate duty, the whole world is waiting for your revolt," al-Samarra'i added in the letter, obtained by AFP in Cyprus on Saturday.

"It is an insult to all Iraqis that he (Saddam) is continuing" to rule the country.

The letter from al-Samarra'i, who headed military intelligence until 1991, was broadcast by Iraqi opposition radio.

The Iraqi National Congress, an opposition coalition, has said in a statement that al-Samarra'i's decision to join it showed "the anger of the Iraqi army, which has experienced successive defeats because of mistakes by the tyrant and his ill-considered policies."

The INC is based in the town of Salah al-Din in northern Iraq, which has been controlled by the Kurds in defiance of Baghdad since the end of the 1991 Gulf War.

Clash Between Regime, Popular Troops Reported

NC0312161794 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Islamic Revolution in Arabic 1440 GMT 3 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] A violent clash took place between popular troops and tyrant Saddam's troops in the area of (Hashsham) and (Bani Asad) on the al-Nasiriyah-Tall al-Lahm Road after it had come under attack by a large force from the regime's police and security troops. According to informed sources, the attacking force was made up of more than 17 vehicles and 350 personnel.

The same sources noted that the clash, in which launchers and machine guns were used, left three vehicles from the tyrant's troops burned while the remaining vehicles fled with their personnel. The popular troops captured and disarmed 12 of the regime's troops. The captured prisoners, who were later released, told investigators that the purpose of the campaign was to arrest those who refuse to perform military service in the regime's Army, as well as other citizens.

Algeria Said Ready To Normalize Relations

TA0512095594 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 5 Dec 94 pp 1, 17

[Report by political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] There has been yet another crack in the wall of Muslim hostility toward Israel.

Algeria, one of the most prominent Muslim countries in the world and the "host" of Israeli plane hijackers in the 1960's and 1970's, has officially signaled to Israel its willingness to start normalizing relations between the two countries.

Our political correspondent has learned that Rabin's and Peres' bureaus received a report that Algeria has officially announced its willingness to allow Israelis to visit.

At this point, the permit would apply to athletes, businessmen, and scientists invited to international conventions, VIP's in official delegations, and Israelis of Algerian extraction.

The announcement was received with great satisfaction in Jerusalem. Although there have been quiet contacts between Israeli and Algerian representatives in recent months (these were conducted by Foreign Ministry Director General Uri Savir, Israel's Ambassador in Vienna Yosef Guvrin, and Israel's UN Ambassador Gad Ya'aqobi), this is the first time that the Algerian Government has initiated an official approach to the Israeli Government. [passage omitted]

Foreign Ministry Denies Report

TA0512113994 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1100 GMT 5 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] The Foreign Ministry has denied a report that Algeria is warming ties with Israel. [passage omitted]

Sources at the Foreign Ministry dismissed the press report, saying Algeria had made no gesture toward warming ties, nor did it seem likely to do so in the near future. Israel established diplomatic ties with two other North African countries, Morocco and Tunisia, after the signing of the peace accord with the Palestinians.

The press report comes as Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres and his Algerian counterpart, Mohamed Salah Dambri, are in Budapest for the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe. A Peres spokeswoman said it would be the first time the two men are in the same room, but Algerian officials denied the two will hold a one-on-one meeting.

Rabin on al-Asad 'Status Quo' Remark, Security

TA0212141294 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1300 GMT 2 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said today that extreme Islamic terrorism and Iran's

military buildup—not 'Arafat or al-Asad—constitute the real threats to Israel. We must struggle against this, and the way to do it is to continue the peace process. The prime minister was speaking at his annual meeting with Israel's press editors marking 29 November.

The prime minister said there has been a change in terrorist patterns, noting the suicide attacks, which cannot be deterred by a death sentence. Mr. Rabin said that we must continue the process with the Palestinians, as well as the Syrians, without whom there will be no peace with Lebanon either. Peace cannot be compulsory, the prime minister said. If Syria, indeed, prefers the status quo to peace, we cannot force peace upon it.

Mr. Rabin believes that the implementation of the peace accord with Jordan will be felt by the residents of Israel and Jordan—in terms of economic cooperation and joint ventures—more than the Israeli-Egyptian peace accord is felt by the respective nations. The prime minister said that he believes that the government's moves have yielded more openness toward Israel on the part of the Arab world but that the removal of the psychological barrier is not a matter of months.

Further on Rabin Comments

TA0412110694 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 4 Dec 94 p 1

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad is mistaken if he believes Washington will force Israel to accept Damascus's terms for peace, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said on Friday [2 December].

US Secretary of State Warren Christopher returns to the region on Tuesday to try to reactivate Israeli-Syrian talks, deadlocked for more than three years.

Rabin, speaking to Israeli newspaper editors and foreign correspondents, said he did not question the importance of reaching a peace treaty with Syria, but not at any price, or under any conditions.

"I think the time has come for President al-Asad...to understand that if he thinks the US will 'deliver' Israel—that is not the way to conduct negotiations," Rabin said. "If Syria really prefers the present situation over peace, peace cannot be forced. We cannot force it on the Syrians. The Syrians cannot force it on us, and the United States...understands that coercion and peace contradict each other."

Al-Asad had said on Thursday that Syria prefers maintaining the status quo, rather than responding to Israeli demands he termed "impossible to accept."

Rabin said both Israel and Arab regimes were endangered by an Iranian-backed "ugly wave of extremist, fundamentalist, terroristic Islam that has swept the Arab and Moslem world."

Noting what he termed an upsurge in mosque construction in the US and western Europe, Rabin said: "Today extremist Islam has an international infrastructure." [passage omitted]

[Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew on 4 December in a page 7 report by Hemi Shalev and Menahem Rahat notes that "Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin intends to continue striving to achieve an interim accord with the Palestinians, while holding 'very tough negotiations' over the scope and nature of the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] redeployment in the West Bank towns. Rabin made remarks to this effect at private meetings over the weekend, prior to the cabinet sessions slated for today and Wednesday, in which the ministers will discuss Israel's positions regarding the continuation of the talks. Nevertheless, the prime minister remains pessimistic with regard to future terrorist attacks against Israelis and has also expressed disappointment with Yasir 'Arafat's reluctance to disarm Hamas [the Islamic Resistance Movement]. Rabin said that 'Arafat's intention to use Fatah as a counterbalance against Hamas would only complicate the situation in Gaza without preventing Hamas terror attacks against Israelis."]

Intelligence Officers Disagree on al-Asad Policy
TA0512095894 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew
5 Dec 94 pp A1, A2

[Report by political correspondent Aluf Ben]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Differences over the assessment of Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad's policy in the peace process with Israel have been holding up the completion of the 1995 annual intelligence evaluation which will soon be submitted to the government.

A dispute over al-Asad's future moves emerged in the internal deliberations conducted by senior analysts in recent weeks. According to one school of thought, al-Asad made a strategic decision to reach peace with Israel based on the Egyptian model in exchange for a full Israeli withdrawal from the Golan and from south Lebanon and an improvement in relations with the United States, but he needs time to prepare Syria's public opinion and establishment for these changes.

According to this approach, advocated by Chief of Intelligence Major General Uri Sagi, the recent difficulties in the negotiations are of a tactical nature and designed to improve al-Asad's bargaining position, but do not denote a change in his strategy.

Other intelligence officers (including his deputy, Brigadier General Ya'akov 'Amidor, head of the analysis department) believe this is a rash evaluation because al-Asad is not prepared to reach the peace Israel expects. In their opinion, the Syrian president will in no event agree to the normalization measures, security arrangements, and timetable demanded by Israel.

Advocates of this approach point to the deceleration in the negotiations with Syria in the aftermath of the Israeli-Jordanian peace treaty and the normalization measures adopted by the Gulf states. In their opinion,

al-Asad is not pressed for time and will try to drag out the negotiations in order to squeeze concessions out of Israel.

Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said two weeks ago that he believes al-Asad wants peace but is not sure it is the same peace Israel wants, and that Israel cannot afford to pay the price sought by Syria.

Conclusive discussions will be held over the next two weeks in order to formulate the final version of the annual evaluation. It will apparently state that al-Asad is adhering to his strategic choice of peace with Israel despite the difficulties in the negotiations. [passage omitted]

Autonomy Negotiator Rothschild Reportedly Resigns

NC0512142794 Paris AFP in English 1218 GMT
5 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Jerusalem, Dec 5 (AFP)—Israel's chief autonomy negotiator General Dani Rothschild resigned Monday [5 December], army officials said, in a surprise announcement.

Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin accepted the resignation for which no reason was given.

Rothschild, who holds the army title of coordinator of Israeli activities in the territories, will not go to autonomy negotiations which resume in Cairo on Tuesday, said his spokeswoman Captain Hannie Jeshurun.

The former military intelligence official who served 30 years in the army also took part in negotiations which produced a peace treaty signed by Israel and Jordan on October 26.

Security Elements Give Report on PA Performance

'Lebanonization' of Gaza Strip Seen

TA0412153394 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 4 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] At today's weekly cabinet meeting, security elements reported on the performance of the Palestinian Authority and some of the speakers called the situation in the Gaza Strip Lebanonization. They said that several armed militias operate in the Gaza Strip. Fatah members are arming, with 'Arafat's blessing, and they are disarming Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement]. Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz notes that the report on 'Arafat's performance, mainly in the security field, was critical.

'Arafat's Management of PA Criticized

TA0412192594

[FBIS Editorial Report] Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1500 GMT on 4 December reports that

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"Major General Uri Sagi, head of the IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] Intelligence Branch, said the Palestinian Authority [PA] is showing signs of Lebanonization in the form of armed militias. Gen. Sagi added that 'Arafat deserves low marks for his security-related, administrative, and fiscal management of the PA. He was speaking at the cabinet meeting.

"Also at the meeting, Brigadier General Ya'akov 'Amidor, the Intelligence Branch deputy chief for research, said 'Arafat is determined not to challenge the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and Islamic Jihad terror. 'Amidor believes, however, that 'Arafat is indispensable.

"The Shin Bet chief discussed the difficulties in dealing with terror which Israel can expect if the agreement implemented in the Gaza Strip is applied to Judaea and Samaria.

"Maj. Gen. Dani Rothschild, coordinator of government activities in the territories, noted that the West Bank is more advanced and sophisticated than the Gaza Strip, and it is better equipped to discharge tasks such as tax collection. For that reason, 'Arafat will have difficulty controlling the West Bank if he remains in the Gaza Strip."

A similar report by political correspondent Udi Segal on Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1500 GMT on 4 December adds: "All the security officials who attended the cabinet meeting noted the strengthening ties between Israeli Arabs and the autonomy population and the need to closely monitor this process, which is liable to prove dangerous."

Also reporting on the cabinet meeting, Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English at 1600 GMT on 4 December adds that "Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin says Israel's expectations of PLO chairman Yasir 'Arafat have not been fulfilled, and continuation of the peace process is a complicated matter." Ministers' comments following the meeting indicate that the military establishment is wary of handing over security matters to a Palestinian police force in the West Bank. Still, "ministers maintain that Israel would not actually demand changes in the Declaration of Principles with the Palestinians, but would simply seek solutions to coordinate the principles agreed upon with the reality of a complex security situation in the West Bank. This cabinet meeting was devoted to the security assessments; the ministers are to have their say on Wednesday."

Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew at 1800 GMT on 4 December states in an announcer-read report: "Speaking at the weekly cabinet meeting, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said today that the Syrians recently blocked a move connected to the peace process following leaks. Ministers believe he was referring to reports on the plan to include high-ranking officers in the Washington talks."

Chief of Staff's Official Visit to Jordan Noted

TA0412052794 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 4 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Chief of Staff Ehud Barak visited Jordan over the weekend and apparently toured Petra. Our Army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe has learned that it was an official visit and that he returned yesterday. The chief of staff has visited Jordan several times.

Beilin Urges More U.S. Involvement in Peace Process

TA0512114394 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1105 GMT 5 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Speaking on the eve of U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's shuttle mission between Jerusalem and Damascus, Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin believes that the United States should become more involved and active in the negotiations between Syria and Israel.

[Begin recording] [Beilin] I think that the best thing that could happen would be a readiness on Syria's part to hold direct talks with Israel at the highest political levels or, alternatively, there could be more U.S. involvement, not necessarily in the sense of Washington achieving results on its own but rather in the form of shuttle diplomacy efforts over longer periods and in a more organized fashion than has been the case until now.

[Ronen] What do you mean by shuttle missions for longer periods? Are you implying that Christopher or one of his assistants should spend a month or 45 days traveling between Jerusalem and Damascus, just as Henry Kissinger did in 1974?

[Beilin] I think that something like this is indeed called for, and devoting long hours to such a sensitive issue is very important. [end recording]

'Sources' Reject AIPAC Reaction to U.S. Report

TA0412111294 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 4 Dec 94 p A1

[Report by Washington correspondent 'Aqiva Eldar]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Official Israeli sources in the United States have complained that AIPAC's [American Israel Public Affairs Committee] sharp reaction to the State Department's periodic report on the PLO's compliance with its commitments will hamper efforts by the U.S. Administration and Israel to win the approval of the new Congress for the annual aid package to the Palestinians.

The official sources said that AIPAC's announcement, which accused the administration of softening criticism against Yasir 'Arafat, was contrary to the position of the Israeli Government. During his recent visit to the United States, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin appealed

to the heads of the American Jewish community to stop treating 'Arafat as an enemy, because, Rabin said, the PLO was Israel's strategic partner in reaching an arrangement with the Palestinians. [passage omitted]

Several hours before AIPAC published its reaction, Israeli Ambassador Itamar Rabinovich asked the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations to take care not to undermine the functioning of the Palestinian Authority [PA]. Rabinovich refused to explicitly comment on possible reactions by Jewish organizations, but said that he had explained to the Conference of Presidents that the Israeli Government supported a balanced approach which took into account the PLO's difficulties in meeting its commitments, while at the same time stressing the positive developments that had taken place and the need to pursue the peace process and let the PLO operate freely.

Rabinovich asserted that although most of the financial support for the PA did not come from the United States, the donor countries look to America for leadership. The ambassador said that the spirit of the State Department report—as well as the recommendation to continue the suspension of prior legislation (which imposed constraints on ties between the United States and the PLO)—was acceptable to Israel. [passage omitted]

Shahaq Says U.S. Deployment on Golan 'Unwise'

TA0412191394 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 4 Dec 94

[Announcer-read report]

[FBIS Translated Text] U.S. sources close to the right-wing circles have said that speaking in a closed meeting with members of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, Chief-of-Staff-designate Amnon Shahaq said that Israel and the United States would be unwise to station U.S. troops on the Golan. The meeting took place in the United States about two weeks ago. The position contradicts that promoted by Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin.

The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] spokesman told our political correspondent in reaction that although Gen.

Shahaq did hold a closed meeting with the Conference of Presidents, the remarks attributed to him have been reported inaccurately.

British Diplomat Fired at in Gaza Strip

TA0412060194 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 4 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Last night soldiers at Nahal 'Oz fired at the car of a British diplomat after he refused their order to stop. No one was hurt, but the vehicle's windshield was damaged. The diplomat, (Peter Morrison), told our correspondent Alan Ben-'Ami that he did not see the soldiers since their position was not lit up. He said he stopped his car after he realized he was being fired at and then he saw the soldiers. The diplomat was released after a brief interrogation. The investigation into the incident is continuing.

Druze Hold 'Turbulent' Rally; 12 Policemen Wounded

TA0412162394 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 4 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The thousands of Druze who rallied in Jerusalem have dispersed, but the Druze local council heads are continuing their strike in a tent opposite the Prime Minister's Office after no agreement was achieved in a meeting between Druze representatives and Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and six ministers.

The prime minister reiterated a proposal drafted by the Finance Ministry and the Union of Local Authorities, under which the Druze hamlets' development needs will be evaluated by mid-February, and the government allocations to the Druze local councils will match the Jewish councils within a few years. The Druze council heads rejected the proposal which, they said, offered nothing new.

Our correspondents Aviv Bushinsky and Ron Nesi'el report that 12 policemen were injured in the course of the turbulent rally opposite the Prime Minister's Office. Six were evacuated to hospital, with three suffering limb fractures.

Palestinian Official al-Husayni Arrives for Talks To Discuss Ties

JN0212081494 Amman AL-RAY in Arabic 2 Dec 94 p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] Amman, QNA—Faysal al-Husayni, official in charge of Jerusalem affairs in the Palestinian Authority, arrived here yesterday, Thursday, on a visit which is expected to last several days. Al-Husayni is scheduled to meet with a number of Jordanian officials to discuss Jordanian-Palestinian ties.

Palestinian sources said al-Husayni will pave the way for a visit by Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat to Amman early next week.

Supports Jordanian Role in Holy Places

JN0312125494 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 3 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan, the regent, at the Royal Hashemite Court this morning received Faysal al-Husayni. His highness reiterated Jordan's support for the Palestinian people's restoration of their rights on their national soil, Jordan's pride in its responsibilities toward the nation's holy places in Jerusalem, and its concern to continue these responsibilities.

Al-Husayni affirmed the need for continuing the Jordanian role in safeguarding the holy places in Jerusalem because these holy places are an Islamic trust with the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. He also affirmed the importance of not changing the current status of these holy places in order to preserve them.

The meeting was attended by His Highness Ra'd Bin-Zayd, chief chamberlain, Marwan al-Qasim, political adviser to his majesty the king, and Muhammad al-Saqqaf, personal adviser to his highness the crown prince.

Paper: Visit Turns New Leaf in Ties

JN0412095194 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 4 Dec 94 p 22

["Spotlights" column by Tahir al-'Adwan]

[FBIS Translated Text] Once again, Jerusalem brings the Jordanian-Palestinian relationship into focus. But this time, differences are straightened out and normalization of ties is effected. This confirms that the disputes between Jordan and the Palestinian Authority [PA] have reflected an eagerness to protect land, man, and the holy shrines, and that any future Jordanian-Palestinian disputes should not overlook the historical and special ties between the two peoples.

This is the initial conclusion one can draw from the meeting held between PA member Faysal al-Husayni and His Highness Crown Prince Hasan, the regent. Faysal al-Husayni has underscored the fact that the

Jordanian role in holy Jerusalem treats Jerusalem as an Islamic trust, and that the status quo—Jordan's guardianship over its holy shrines—should remain unchanged. He highlighted the importance of this issue.

And since Jordan is eager to safeguard this holy trust, which is cherished by all Arabs and Muslims, Prince Hasan has reiterated our country's desire and eagerness to continue to shoulder its responsibility toward the holy shrines in holy Jerusalem. He noted that this Jordanian position is based on firm principles and policy pillars that will remain in force as long as Jerusalem is under occupation.

No doubt, the Jordanian-Palestinian relationship has experienced some crises in recent months. However, it was the conviction of all those who are aware of the profound cohesion between the Jordanian and Palestinian peoples that the clouds marring their skies would soon subside in favor of a cloudless relationship, which is an inevitability dictated by history, geography, and common interests.

While others were busy noting the points of disagreement between Jordan and the PA, seeking to magnify their dispute, Jordan has repeatedly made clear its firm and principled support for the Palestinian people. At the Casablanca conference, Prince Hasan was perfectly clear when he articulated our positions toward Jerusalem and the Palestine question. At this conference, he demonstrated that Jordan is eager to see the Palestinian people regain their sovereignty over the occupied Palestinian territories, including holy Jerusalem.

We believe that the outcome of the meeting held between Crown Prince Hasan and Faysal al-Husayni paves the way for the imminent meeting between His Majesty King Husayn and President Yasir 'Arafat, the first since President 'Arafat took over as PA head. This requires the creation of new ground rules for the Jordanian-Palestinian relationship, which now needs the building of true bridges of understanding, given the new political and geographic realities in both Jordan and Palestine.

Jordan's positions toward Jerusalem and other related issues have dispelled doubts. Given all this, there is nothing to prevent the turning of a new leaf in the ties between Jordan and the PA. The relationship between them must measure up to the national, pan-Arab, and historical responsibilities entailed, and reflect the profound ties between the Jordanian and Palestinian peoples. The strong ties between the two peoples are special. This specialness of ties is an asset to the Palestinian people at this historical, critical, and delicate point in time. We welcome the results of Faysal al-Husayni's visit, and hope that it will herald a new start in the Jordanian-Palestinian relationship, one that is devoid of clouds and doubts, and that is marked by trust, cooperation, and brotherhood. This is because this is necessary if we are to protect and safeguard the holy shrines and Jerusalem, and if we are to allow Jerusalem to see the breaking of a new dawn after living for long in the darkness of the occupation.

'Arafat Said Expected in Amman 'This Week'*JN0312094694 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic
3 Dec 94 pp 1, 15*

[Report by Tawfiq 'Abid]

[FBIS Translated Text] AL-DUSTUR has learned that the mediation efforts to hold a summit between His Majesty King Husayn and Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat have been successful.

It is worth mentioning that Faysal al-Husayni, official in charge of Jerusalem affairs in the National Authority, arrived in Amman on Thursday [1 December] on a visit, which sources close to him said was private. However, some Palestinian officials say that al-Husayni will prepare the Jordanian-Palestinian summit.

The Palestinian sources said al-Husayni delayed his return to Jerusalem, which was expected yesterday, to Sunday or Monday to meet with His Majesty King Husayn and prepare for his meeting with President 'Arafat. The sources told AL-DUSTUR that President 'Arafat may arrive in Amman in the middle of this week, and specifically two or three days after His Majesty King Husayn returns from London.

The sources added: During the visit, the Palestinian president will sign four agreements on economy; land, air, and sea transport; trade; and banks and finance.

Official on Search for Tel Aviv Embassy Site*JN0312114694 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English
3 Dec 94 p 1*

[Report by Caroline Faraj]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman—A Jordanian Foreign Ministry delegation returned home from Tel Aviv on Monday [3 December] after holding talks with Israeli officials on opening a Jordanian embassy in Tel Aviv and leasing residences for the Jordanian ambassador and diplomats.

The head of the delegation, 'Umar al-Rifa'i, who heads a special bureau at the Foreign Ministry, said the delegation was familiarised during its two-day visit with places proposed to house the embassy and the residence of the ambassador to Israel as of Dec. 10, the deadline for the two countries to open embassies in accordance with the peace treaty signed between the two countries Oct. 26.

Mr. al-Rifa'i said it was not yet decided on the location of the embassy since the delegation stayed in Israel for a short period, but said it was natural for the embassy to be in northern Tel Aviv, adding that the ambassador's residence will be in Hetzelia area where other ambassadors in Israel reside.

Mr. al-Rifa'i said final arrangements for opening the Jordanian and Israeli embassies and discussing other issues related to diplomatic matters during a three-day

meeting between the two sides are due to open in Amman Sunday [4 December].

He said an Israeli delegation headed by a senior Israeli foreign ministry official, Yuri Halvon, will arrive in Amman to complete arrangements for renting the premises of the Israeli embassy in Amman.

Informed sources told the Jordan Times the two sides might rent suites at hotels to serve as embassies in view of the short period of time left for them to meet the Dec. 10 deadline.

The sources said they expected the celebrations marking the opening of embassies in the two countries would be limited to members of the diplomatic missions.

According to the sources, the Jordanian government has not yet received an Israeli nomination of its ambassador.

The sources said some of the persons suggested to serve as ambassador are, deputy head of the Israeli secret service Ephraim Halevy, foreign ministry spokesman Yusi Gal and Deputy Foreign Minister Eitan Ben Tzur.

Israeli Delegation To Prepare for Embassy Opening*JN0412131494 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 4 Dec 94*

[FBIS Translated Text] A five-member Israeli Foreign Ministry delegation led by Ambassador Yuri Halvon arrived in Amman this morning to make the final arrangements for the opening of the Israeli Embassy in Amman on Sunday [10 December], when the Jordanian Embassy will be opened in Tel Aviv, in implementation of Article 5 of the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty.

A Foreign Ministry delegation led by 'Umar al-Rifa'i, who heads a special bureau at the ministry, had over the past two days been in Tel Aviv, where he held talks on the final preparations for the opening of the Jordanian Embassy in Tel Aviv.

Meeting With Israelis Postponed Due to Bad Weather*JN0412194194 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1915 GMT 4 Dec 94*

[FBIS Translated Text] A responsible source has said that due to the prevailing weather conditions, a meeting of the joint Jordanian-Israeli Committee to follow up implementation of the Jordanian-Israeli treaty, which was slated to be held tomorrow, Monday, has been postponed until further notice.

Syria Said 'Diverting' Water From Country's Share*JN0312122894 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English
3 Dec 94 p 12*

[Report by Natasha Bukhari]

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[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman—Jordanian water rights from riparians of the Jordan and Yarmuk rivers are not yet fully restored as Syria has been diverting an annual 95 million cubic metres of Jordan's share from the Yarmuk River since the 50s, according to water experts.

The Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty signed on Oct. 26 secures the Kingdom's water share from Israel, but regional cooperation and stability can only be attained when disputes over water in the area as a whole are resolved, said Mundhir Haddadin, who negotiated Jordanian water rights with Israel.

The treaty increases Jordan's water share by a total of 1230 million cubic metres (MCMs), he told the JORDAN TIMES, adding that there is more of the Kingdom's share to be restored from Syria.

Dr. Haddadin, who described negotiations with Israel over water as "long and arduous," said he adopted the principle of "integrity of the river system" and not the Johnston plan as it is widely assumed as the basis for agreement.

This principle prohibits any party to use water outside the river system if that water is needed by any riparian. Dr. Haddadin, however, said that the agreement Jordan reached with Israel was closer to the principle of equitable and reasonable utilisation which entitles each basin state a reasonable and equitable share in beneficial uses of waters in its territories.

Jordan's major surface and ground water resources are shared with other riparians. The Yarmuk River and ground waters in the north are shared among Jordan, Syria and the West Bank, and the Jordan River system in the west is shared with Israel.

A study conducted by American experts in 1953 and agreed upon by the Arabs in 1955 allocates 330 MCMs annually to Jordan, 47 MCMs to the West Bank, 25 MCMs to Israel and 90 MCMs to Syria from the Yarmuk River.

The so-called Johnston plan was based on the 1953 Baker-Harsa report, also known as masterplan for the Jordan River Valley. But neither Israel nor Syria respected the provisions of the agreement, Dr. Haddadin said.

While Israel was using 70 MCMs, Syria was and still is using 220 MCMs—95 MCMs more than it was allocated.

Following intensive negotiations with Israel, Jordan managed to restore its water rights from Israel from both the Jordan and Yarmuk rivers, but Syrian violations of the regional agreements have not yet been addressed.

In a televised address to the nation last month, His Majesty King Husayn said that Jordan will strive to regain its water rights in full.

Although the King did not mention Syria by name, Jordanians are aware of Syria's diversion of Jordan's share of the Yarmuk, which lies on the Jordanian-Syrian border.

Observers believe that King Husayn's reference to the remaining water rights could form the backbone for future Jordanian-Syrian negotiations on the issue based on a formal Jordanian demand of the "rightful share" of water.

Dr. Haddadin said that regional stability and cooperation was impossible in the presence of conflicts over water. "Even if the water issue was dealt with in peace agreements involving Syria, Lebanon and the Palestinians, the region will not be stable as long as there are signs of dispute between Syria and Iraq over Euphrates waters..." he said.

The two downstream sharers of the river (Syria and Iraq), which has flows down from Turkey, have sparked political disputes due to conflicts over water.

In 1975, Iraq called an urgent meeting of the foreign ministers of the Arab League to discuss claims to Euphrates waters. In the tense week that followed both Iraq and Syria moved troops towards their mutual frontier. The situation was defused by Saudi intervention, but tense relations between the two sides still prevail.

Competition among Turkey, Syria and Iraq for Euphrates waters can be resolved by reaching compatible agreements between the beneficiaries if the river waters as well as foreign investment for utilising the waters are used in a manner that would serve the whole region, said Dr. Haddadin.

"Then the region's water would be distributed; thus (creating) a regional order..." he said.

'Final Decision' on al-Hariri Resignation Pending
NC0212154994 Paris AFP in English 1523 GMT 2 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Beirut, Dec 2 (AFP)—Lebanese Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri publicly announced his decision to resign on Friday [2 December] and warned that he would not change his mind. Al-Hariri first said he would resign on Thursday at a special government meeting.

Speaking at the opening of an exhibition in Beirut the next day, the premier said he "would not go back on his latest decision," following earlier threats to resign.

It was al-Hariri's first public statement since he informed President Ilyas al-Hirawi of his "definitive wish to step down" during a stormy meeting of the Cabinet.

However the prime minister still had not formally presented his letter of resignation to the president, and would not do so until after talks with Syrian leaders in Damascus on Sunday, an advisor said.

Al-Hariri is to meet Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam in Damascus, according to his advisor Nuhad Mashnuq.

Analysts here believe that the final decision on his resignation will be taken by Damascus, which has 35,000 troops in Lebanon and pulls the political strings in Beirut.

President To Refuse al-Hariri Resignation

NC0312105194 Paris AFP in English 1023 GMT 3 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Beirut, Dec 3 (AFP)—Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi has said he will refuse to accept the resignation of Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri in remarks published Saturday [3 December].

"Although I am behind him, I will do everything I can to dissuade him. I will refuse this resignation and have asked him not to present it in writing," al-Hirawi said in an interview published Saturday by the daily AL-DIYAR.

He said that last week he managed to smooth over differences between al-Hariri and Parliamentary Speaker Nabih Birri "but the crisis erupted again."

Al-Hariri's announcement on Thursday of his irrevocable decision to resign sent shock waves through Beirut's money markets, causing shares in the company he created to rebuild war-shattered Beirut to slide.

Al-Hariri, stung by opposition attacks, first said he would resign on Thursday at a stormy government meeting.

On Friday a bitter al-Hariri said he would "not go back" on his latest decision, despite having made similar threats in the past.

The announcement sent shares in the Solidere company in charge of rebuilding Beirut's city centre tumbling by five percent.

However al-Hariri has still not formally presented his letter of resignation to the president, and would not do so until after talks with Syrian leaders in Damascus on Sunday, one of his advisors said.

Al-Hariri is to meet Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam, a good friend of his, in Damascus, according to his advisor Nihad Mashnuq.

Syria is the main foreign power broker in Lebanon where it has stationed 35,000 troops and pulls the strings in Beirut politics.

But al-Hirawi told the daily he was "ashamed that the Lebanese, tearing themselves apart, refer to Damascus."

Editorial Terms Resignation 'Unconventional Game'

NC0512120194 Beirut AL-ANWAR in Arabic 3 Dec 94 p 1

[Editorial by Rafiq Khuri: "Him and 'Them'"]

[FBIS Translated Text] As it was in ruling, so it is in resignation: Unconventional games within set limits. Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri is not the only one who is behaving as king of the al-Ta'if Republic. He believes he is king and wants to keep his position as king, God willing. He is not the only one who is trying to give the impression that if he leaves government he will create a problem for Lebanon. But he might be the only one who seems to have forgotten the limitations and the differences between what he came to power for and what he believes he came to power for. So what does it look like when, in resigning, he gives the impression that he is staying because the government can only exist through him? And how does it sound when he says that resignation is "a step we will not go back on for the sake of a project the objective of which is to rebuild Lebanon, inasmuch as the objective is to confirm Lebanon's role in the region and the world and strengthen its position in confronting Israeli projects of various scope?"

Through his resignation, Prime Minister al-Hariri has not resolved the crucial issues and files created before his resignation. In his speech at the Arab book fair, he did not answer the many questions that were raised about his resignation. In his call to discuss every issue "in a balanced and objective way that is removed from indiscriminate argument," he resorted to the peak of indiscriminate argument through his policy of rhetorical responses. All he has done is to blame unknown people,

finding it enough to accuse them of all the evils in this world without naming these people or defining who this 'them' is.

It is not reasonable for people to hear the prime minister make important statements like these without asking who these people are, people of whom he said: "It is important that they eliminate suspicion. Then it makes no difference if they hurt others or attack the honor of the state and its institutions." They are the ones he categorized as among "those outlaws within the government system." Are these people he is discussing not his partners in government? Will the description change if they say nothing or let him do what he wants as though the state is a private institution?

This rhetorical back and forth is entertaining and amusing but it is contradictory. That aside, it is temporary and perishable. How can action on the level of rebuilding the state be grand, while the obstacles capable of stopping it are the work of "a group of adventurers, gamblers, and egoists?" With what right does any official claim "ownership" of the project to rebuild the country? He becomes, at the same time, the "project" party leader and the prime minister of the state and the others become enemies of the homeland and the state, not people with a stance regarding the projects of the prime minister or anyone else in a position of power.

Perhaps the important message underlying the other messages in Prime Minister al-Hariri's speech is that he is continuing his role whether he is in government or not. The answer to these people who claimed that al-Hariri is the prime minister for one term and that he will not stay in Lebanon or in politics if he resigns is to say that he came into politics to stay and that he can resign while staying in Lebanon and continuing public and private activities. This is all fine. But what happens next? What happens before that? And where will the government hide from the various files that have recently been brought out in the open, even if some of these files have not been exposed yet? Where will it hide from hungry, angry, and oppressed people?

Nobody is unaware that the proposed solutions are still insignificant compared with the problems and in some cases these solutions themselves create new problems. Al-Hariri's staying in power is not the whole problem, just as his resignation is not the complete solution.

Prime Minister Leaves for Talks With Syria

NC0412101894 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0945 GMT 4 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri left Beirut airport for Damascus on board his private plane at 1050 today. At 0930, Chamber of Deputies Speaker Nabih Birri left for the Syrian capital after a 90-minute meeting with President Ilyas al-Hirawi at B'abda Palace. Birri and al-Hariri are scheduled to meet

with Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam in light of al-Hariri's insistence on his resignation.

President Accuses Officials of Corruption

NC0312143394 Kafr Killa Voice of the South in Arabic 1030 GMT 3 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] President Ilyas al-Hirawi has attacked a number of former and incumbent officials. He has accused Deputy Elie Skaf of starting slogans and not implementing them. He said Skaf is assisted by Deputy Speaker Elie al-Firzli and Deputy Khalil al-Hirawi.

In a press statement published today, President al-Hirawi said Elie al-Firzli's coarse voice does not mean that he utters the truth. These three are collaborating to pass a law abolishing inheritance tax, which will mean a loss of approximately \$25 million to the treasury. Al-Hirawi accused Elie al-Firzli of having sought to acquit former President Amin al-Jumayyil and his adviser Sami Marun in the Puma helicopter deal. He said al-Firzli went to Paris and met with Sami Marun, who apparently fixed it financially with him. President al-Hirawi added: Al-Firzli says we have sacrificed martyrs and blood for Lebanon's sake. Does someone who remained in Western al-Biq'a' under Israeli occupation and met and sat with the Israelis have the right to speak about blood and martyrs?

Al-Hirawi noted that Deputy Khalil al-Hirawi, Deputy Na'ilah Mu'awwad, and Deputy Speaker al-Firzli lost face at the parliamentary meeting in which Amin al-Jumayyil was held responsible [for the Puma helicopter deal] because al-Firzli could not fulfill his promise to al-Jumayyil.

President al-Hirawi also criticized former Speaker Husayn al-Husayni and accused him of buying plots of land in Hadath Ba'labakk for \$8 million and registering them at a value of \$300,000. President al-Hirawi asked: Where did al-Husayni get this huge amount of money? Did he get it from his business activity as a lawyer, from sales of agriculture products, or from hard work?

President al-Hirawi also criticized former Prime Minister 'Umar Karami, saying that Karami escaped to Tripoli when the decision was made to send the army [destination unknown]. He also accused Karami of buying an apartment in al-Ramlah al-Bayda' [in Beirut] for \$700,000 and registering it in the name of his wife for \$6,000 in order to avoid property tax. This is at a time when former Prime Minister Karami declares himself to be clean and honest. President al-Hirawi also accused former Prime Minister Salim al-Huss of evading responsibility when the state decided to end the mutiny of General Michel 'Awn. He described al-Huss as indecisive.

Former Officials Challenge Accusations

NC0412080694 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 4 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The dispute in the media between President Ilyas al-Hirawi and a number of

officials he named in his latest statements is gradually escalating. Al-Hirawi has confirmed the statements published yesterday and threatened to publish the documents if his accusations are denied. It is time the people knew the truth, he said.

[Former] Prime Minister 'Umar Karami said nothing is easier than accusing people, but this does not lead to anything. Our system is democratic, he said, and we cannot judge politics based on such accusations. Karami added: Through his statement, President al-Hirawi wanted to tell Damascus that he is not cooperating with Karami, al-Sulh, al-Huss, or others; and, therefore, al-Hariri should remain the head of government. However, according to the Constitution, the president of the republic is only a source of proposals, and it is the Chamber of Deputies that makes the decisions. Karami called on President al-Hirawi to end the secrecy concerning his bank accounts at home and abroad. He said: We know the wealth al-Hirawi had when he came to the presidency; where did he get it from?

[Former] Prime Minister Salim al-Huss said it is not true that President al-Hirawi alone decided to end the mutiny [of Michel 'Awn] in 1990, as he claimed. That was a unanimous Council of Ministers decision, he said. Al-Huss added: It is not appropriate for the president of the Republic to say that I am indecisive. At any rate, I do not need his testimony. My record over more than seven years in government is the best testimony for me.

For his part, [former] Chamber of Deputies Speaker Husayn al-Husayni said: What we see today indicates that the presidency is in extreme danger. He asked the public attorney to launch an immediate enquiry into the president's accusations out of concern for the law and the rights of the state treasury. He said he places himself at the disposal of the public prosecution and is ready for a public debate with the president over all these issues and others. He said he will hold a news conference as soon as he returns to Beirut from Paris.

Al-Hariri Warns Graduates of 'Mud-Rakers'

NC0312125894 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1014 GMT 3 Dec 94

[Speech by Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri at ceremony honoring outstanding Al-Hariri Foundation students, at the American University of Beirut's Assembly Hall—live]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] Brothers, sons, today you join former graduates and outstanding students of the al-Hariri Foundation and other national institutions. You are joining the elite who are building peace with earnest and ethical work and reconstructing the homeland in the wake of the destructive war and its ruinous effects. You have seen, and will further experience, that a life of peace, broadmindedness, education, and progress can be achieved through learning and the application of learning.

Your learning and the opportunity you have been given put a burden of responsibility on you. Your homeland, wounded by the former war, the continuing Israeli occupation, and the adverse attitudes left by the war in the ways of thinking, speaking, and acting, deserves your support through continuous, serious action, contribution to the reconstruction effort, and the avoidance of an easy life.

Brothers, friends, the joy I share with you today compels me to lay some facts before you, particularly as you are now on the threshold of public life. All of you listen to or read the political news and the attendant incessant attempts to discredit the country's governing system and institutions. All of you are following the blinding, mud-raking operation, which fills the hearts with resentment, dismay, and ridicule and spreads the language of mutual hate and indiscriminate accusations throughout the country. Beware of letting this mud-raking influence your convictions. Beware of letting it affect your ambitions to public life or political aspirations. You are the opponents of this mud-raking practice. You are the clean air that has the task of containing the storm of dirt and expelling it from Lebanese political and national life. [applause]

They tried in the recent past to abolish your generation, nullify your role, and enmesh it in the quagmire of conflict and war. Their attempts failed, however, and the rising Lebanese generation succeeded in asserting its role. It can do that through a strong and just civil state, a state of institutions, the future state of which you dream and which we will never stop defending until the dream comes true. [applause]

I reiterate what I have been saying: I will not back down from my scheme to rebuild the state whether [applause] I am part of the government or not. [applause] I will maintain my faith in this country's good people, the vast majority, who sincerely seek to make their homeland succeed in the political, administrative, and security spheres. Such people are to be found everywhere in Lebanon. From this podium of learning, I call on them not to despair and to maintain their faith, sacrifices, and earnest resolve to rebuild the country and the citizens.

The mud-raking cacophony of the past few weeks must not hinder your national tasks. The mud-rakers will not succeed in abolishing the generation that you represent. For our part, we will stand by you, we will back you, and we will not be distracted by the campaigns seeking to ruin the state-rebuilding scheme.

Some people claim that we are carrying out political maneuvers. We state simply and firmly that there is no room for political maneuvering in our national conduct. [applause] Political maneuvering has always been the custom of those who place their country in harm's way for their own cheap aims. We do not carry out maneuvers to take away the right of honorable and sincere people to rebuild the state. We will maintain our promise to them. We will adhere to our support for you. We will

not retract any step that we judge beneficial for the civil, just, and strong Lebanese state.

Brothers, sons, every year I wait for this occasion. I wait to see you, boys and girls, young men and women, and I see a promising future in your industriousness, perseverance, and excellent performance. The future is yours through no one's favor. Be for yourselves and your homeland and then your homeland will be for you. This is the true homeland, the home of a vast majority of honorable and good people, who regard productive learning and work as the pillar of a dignified and honest life. Persevere and you will achieve your objectives. God be with you. Long may you live. Long live Lebanon. [applause]

Al-Hariri Speaks at Book Exhibition Opening

NC0212192594 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1630 GMT 2 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri spoke at the opening of the Arab book exhibition at the invitation of the Arab Cultural Club at 1600 today. In his address he touched on the political situation in Lebanon, (?saying) he will not abandon the project of building the (?country), whether he is in office or out [word indistinct] work with all honest people in Lebanon and (?strengthening) Lebanon to help it face the challenges. Al-Hariri said:

[Begin al-Hariri recording] Lebanon is a country where freedom cannot be [words indistinct] by the law and the law cannot be a means of extortion. Lebanon is a country where a state of institutions must exist. Lebanon is a state of the educated and the [word indistinct], not a state of [words indistinct] in the regime and outlaws.

All issues are subject to debate, but with sobriety and objectiveness and far from haphazard squabbles. The responsibility of us all is to contribute to cleansing our (?political) society, but this cannot happen [word indistinct] dirt accumulates at the door of this society and harms those who enter and leave.

We will not abandon the job of building the state and restoring all things to normal and all foundations to their original standing, and no one will be with us from the beginning to the end except honest people. Lebanon will [word indistinct], God willing, and a handful of adventurers, gamblers, and [word indistinct] will not be able to stop the process of progress and construction.

Our confidence in this country is and will remain (?strong) and we will not forsake our role in protecting it, whether from within or outside the government no matter how strong the winds of skepticism.

O honest people, Lebanon is yours; O [word indistinct] Lebanon is yours; O educated people, Lebanon is yours. We have been and will continue to be advocates of progress, so let us be faithful to this role and to our Arab culture. [end recording]

Latif Calls For Application of UN Resolutions

BR0212150994 Rome: SECOLO D'ITALIA in Italian 2 Dec 94 p 13

[Interview with General Nadim Latif, Lebanese National Congress coordinator, by unidentified correspondent in Rome; date not given: "Lebanon, a Forgotten Tragedy"—first paragraph is SECOLO D'ITALIA introduction]

[FBIS Translated Text] General Nadim Latif, coordinator of the CNL (Lebanese National Congress), is General 'Awn's de facto representative and spokesman in Lebanon. Latif was in Rome over the last few days, heading a CNL delegation attending the investiture as cardinal of Maronite Patriarch Nasrallah Sufayr. We expected someone cautious and unforthcoming, but we found a man willing to talk and measured in his words and gestures.

[SECOLO D'ITALIA] General Latif, you have been appointed CNL spokesman. There is quite some opposition to Lebanon's pro-Syrian government....

[Latif] My appointment to the leadership of the CNL in Lebanon is the result of the conference held in Paris this year. We do not want to challenge anybody; this appointment has been made in response to the wishes of the Lebanese people, which had had no spokesman since General 'Awn went into exile. Our commitment is to the country's freedom and independence, which, sadly, it does not now have....

[IL SECOLO D'ITALIA] You have already headed a major delegation to Bkirki [residence of the Maronite patriarch—SECOLO D'ITALIA editor's note] to express your support for the statements Cardinal Sufayr made in Paris. What is all this? A honeymoon with the patriarchate?

[Latif] We agree with the patriarch on all matters relating to independence, freedom of opinion, and freedom of choice. If you want to call that a "honeymoon," so be it, let us use the term...!

[IL SECOLO D'ITALIA] What has changed in the patriarch's stance?

[Latif] As far as his previous stance is concerned, the patriarch has repeated on several occasions that when he accepted the Al-Ta'if agreement he thought he was opting for the lesser evil, and that was a mistake...! Be that as it may, the Al-Ta'if agreement has not been respected. However, it would be better to ask the cardinal himself that question!

[IL SECOLO D'ITALIA] There is talk of constant violations of human rights in Lebanon.

[Latif] The violations of human rights in our country have been reported by Amnesty International and the International Human Rights Federation. Here is just one case: A famous lawyer was entrusted with the defense of

many men arrested for their political ideas, and he told Amnesty International about all the torture and ill-treatment to which they had been subjected. This lawyer is now being actively sought by the state (in other words, by the state security services)!

[SECOLO D'ITALIA] What will the CNL's future strategy be?

[Latif] As the CNL, we were scattered prior to the Paris conference, but now we are reorganizing our campaign at all levels. As far as the presidential election is concerned, General 'Awn has stated that an election serves no logical purpose in a country without independence and without freedom.... It would merely make matters worse, which is why we are calling and working for a new government of national unity, whose job it will be to allow fresh elections in the country under the control of a UN commission.

[IL SECOLO D'ITALIA] What can Italy do for Lebanon?

[Latif] Italy can do a lot. It can exert its influence on the EU [European Union] and the United Nations to press for compliance with the UN's own Resolutions 425 and 520, which call for the unconditional withdrawal of all foreign troops from Lebanon!

Diplomatic Relations Established With Croatia

NC0512120294 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1130 GMT 5 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] A joint statement issued today by the Lebanese and Croatian Foreign Ministries said that an agreement has been reached on establishing diplomatic relations at the ambassadorial level and developing ties of friendship and cooperation between the two countries in accordance with the principles of the UN Charter. This agreement follows the cabinet decision of 18 July 1994.

Mashariqah Stresses 'Just Peace' at Conference
JN2711165794 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1215 GMT 27 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Under the patronage of President Hafiz al-Asad, the fifth general conference of the Islamic Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization opened at the al-Umawiyyin Conference Palace this morning under the slogan: "Educational and Cultural Cooperation Is the Basis for Islamic Solidarity." President Hafiz al-Asad was represented by Vice President Dr. Muhammad Zuhayr Mashariqah, who delivered an opening speech. [passage omitted]

Talking about the Arab-Israeli conflict, Mashariqah stressed that since 1973 Syria has been calling for a comprehensive, just, and lasting peace based on international legitimacy and Security Council resolutions 242, 338, and 425. He said Syria has been working through the initiatives made over the past two decades to reach a comprehensive and just peace. But, he said, these endeavors were delayed by Israel's intransigence and its refusal to comply with international legitimacy and the resolutions.

He added: Israel insists on its intransigence by refusing to declare its readiness to withdraw from the Arab territories that were occupied in 1967 and by failing to admit that the West Bank and Gaza Strip are occupied Palestinian Arab territories. Israel wants to use them in bargaining and negotiations. Israel insists on making Jerusalem its permanent capital, although the city is part of the Palestinian territories occupied in 1967.

Dr. Mashariqah said: What is noticeable in this regard is that some sides have been deceived into believing that Jerusalem represents just the Islamic holy places, and other sides are casting doubts on the possibility of regaining Jerusalem.

Dr. Mashariqah said the Islamic Conference Organization was established for the sake of Jerusalem and then expanded to cover all issues of interest to officials throughout the world and to assert that Jerusalem, the first of the two qiblas and the third holiest shrine, is our major responsibility, and that the Islamic states should unify their ranks and efforts to remove Israel's aggression against the Arab territories, foremost of which is holy Jerusalem.

Dr. Mashariqah also said that peace to Syria constitutes a basic part of its policy and that President Hafiz al-Asad has repeatedly said that peace was Syria's strategic option, because in the absence of just, comprehensive, and lasting peace based on international legitimacy, this region and other regions in the world will remain threatened with instability.

He reviewed Syria's efforts in the peace process, stressing that Syria is committed to the objective requirements of peace and that we should assert that any peace made at the expense of one party will not provide security and

stability because the losing party will remain tense and will feel that it is unjustly treated. Such a peace, he said, cannot survive.

Dr. Mashariqah then touched on current events in the Palestinian territories, saying these events prove the peace of submission will not provide security for both the strong and the weak. He said that since the seventies, Syria has been urging the Arabs to face the issue of peace collectively and with a one position and will, because unilateral deals will not provide any chance to reach the minimum level of rights. Rather, it will give the strong more leverage to impose its will, dictate its conditions, and achieve its goals.

The vice president also said: Before, during, and after the Madrid conference, we tried to coordinate the Arab position but our efforts were paralyzed by unilateral deals. While we worked eagerly to coordinate the Arab positions, we supported the other Arab sides and enabled them to benefit from the elements of strength in Syria's position and capabilities.

Mashariqah said Syria will continue the march of just and comprehensive peace without relinquishing an inch of land or any rights. He said: This is what President Hafiz al-Asad stressed during his meeting with U.S. President Clinton in Damascus. His excellency told President Clinton that Syria was committed to the peace process and that it was making serious efforts to bring about a just and comprehensive peace as a strategic option that will ensure Arab rights and end Israeli occupation of the Arab territories in accordance with the resolutions of international legitimacy and enable all the peoples of the region to live in peace, security, and dignity. His excellency, he added, also told President Clinton that proceeding from the principle of total withdrawal for total peace, Syria was ready to commit itself to the objective requirements of peace and to establish normal relations in return for its full withdrawal from the Golan to the borders that existed before 4 June 1967 and also from southern Lebanon.

Dr. Mashariqah appealed to all the brothers in the Islamic states to exert their utmost effort to cooperate at a time when the world lacks an international balance and when the gap between the rich and the Third World countries is widening.

Concluding, Mashariqah added that if the Islamic world succeeds in achieving cooperation and coordination and in understanding its basic interests, it will be able to contribute to building a new world based on right, justice, and equality.

Ba'th Official Reaffirms Position on Peace
JN0112150494 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1215 GMT 1 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, assistant secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, met this morning with participants in the

13th central political and intellectual seminar organized by the Revolution Youth Federation under the slogan "the Glorious Corrective Movement; the Movement of the Party and the People Toward the Future; 24 Years Under Historic Leader Hafiz al-Asad."

At the outset of the meeting, Comrade al-Ahmar conveyed to the participants greetings from the militant comrade, President Hafiz al-Asad, the Party's secretary general and president of the Republic, and the Ba'th Party leadership and their best wishes to the comrade participants for success in their militant and intellectual activities. [passage omitted]

Comrade al-Ahmar touched on the current political developments in the region and the world. He reviewed the positions of Syria and its leader on these developments, noting that the firmness of Syria's principled position has won Syria prominent international status and widespread world respect. He said Syria is committed to a just and comprehensive peace based on the implementation of the UN resolutions and the land-for-peace formula. He stressed that a just and comprehensive peace cannot be established in the region without Syria. Furthermore, he added, such a peace cannot be attained if Israel does not withdraw from the Syrian occupied territories in the Golan Heights to the 4 June 1967 borderlines and also from southern Lebanon. He said Syria will not abandon a single inch of its territory or relinquish or bargain over Arab rights. [passage omitted]

Officer Addresses Naval School Graduation

JN3011220394 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1915 GMT 30 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Under the patronage of President Hafiz al-Asad, commander in chief of the Army and Armed Forces, and as part of our people's celebrations of the 24th anniversary of the Corrective Movement, a graduation ceremony was held today for a new class of the Naval School.

Lieutenant General Hikmat al-Shihabi, chief of staff of the Army and Armed Forces, deputized for the president. [passage omitted]

Amid a thunder of applause and cheers for the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and its secretary general, militant comrade Hafiz al-Asad, the representative of the commander in chief delivered a speech in which he said: I am honored to deputize for President Hafiz al-Asad, the commander in chief of the Army and Armed Forces, in patronizing this grand ceremony. [passage omitted]

He then spoke about the regional peace process, noting that Israel is behind the stumbling of the peace process and that the Israeli rulers are still driven by the Talmudic dreams of containing and controlling the region. They, however, are making a mistake if they think that the avoidance of the principles of the peace process will compensate for a just and comprehensive peace; a peace

that is based on the resolutions of international legitimacy and the land-for-peace formula, he added.

Lt. Gen. al-Shihabi added: There can be no peace in the framework of dividing the solution and keeping the land. The position of our country is firm and principled, and we will only accept a just peace that will return land, preserve our people's dignity, give each his rights, and guarantee security and stability for all parties in the region. [passage omitted]

Israeli Influence on U.S. Mideast Policy Viewed

JN2611160994 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1242 GMT 26 Nov 94

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Gentlemen: If the statement made by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin at the end of his visit to the United States was the outcome of his meetings and talks with U.S. officials, then this must certainly increase our doubts concerning the future of the peace process.

Rabin, who was working to ensure the continuation of U.S. assistance at the same level, has revealed the Israeli position which rejects all the results of the Damascus summit between Presidents al-Asad and Clinton. The U.S. President had emphasized the commitment of his administration to work for just and comprehensive peace based on Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. He emphasized the importance of Syria and its central role in realizing peace in the region. He emphasized its positions and its eagerness to render the peace process a success and to cooperate with the U.S. efforts to end the stalemate in the peace process caused by Israel's intransigence in rejecting the principles of peace and its requirements.

As usual in all U.S. efforts, Syria did not receive answers to the questions it posed that dealt with the substance of peace and the mechanism of reaching this peace. The U.S. President ended his Middle East tour in Israel as his secretary of state has done on more than one tour. However, Israel did not fail to convey its position, which not only rejects just and comprehensive peace, but also rejects the U.S. role if this role moves any closer to the real facts of the conflict in the region or becomes convinced that the essence of the solution must respond to international legitimacy and ensure the return of land and people.

Observers still remember how Israel expressed—in statements by more than one official—its desire to cancel the tour of Secretary Christopher in order to abort the U.S. efforts that occasionally cause optimism that Washington intends to play the role of full and honest partner. Observers are waiting for results that will contribute to the required progress on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks, based on the principles of just and comprehensive peace, the resolutions of international legitimacy, and the principle of trading land for peace.

When Rabin returns to speak about controversial issues concerning the basic principles of the peace process and the aspired results, he speaks about the difference between the peace Israel wants and the peace Syria wants. He emphasizes that Israel is not prepared to pay the needed price for making peace.

It is natural that we emphasize that this clear distinction comes as evidence of the soundness of Syria's positions, which adheres to the resolutions of international legitimacy and the principle of full withdrawal in return for full peace. Israel continues to reject these resolutions and insists on peace tailored to suit its objectives and plans to dominate and continue occupation.

Syria—whose credibility on its positions, firmness in its vision of just and comprehensive peace, and readiness to meet its requirements were proven by every round of talks and contacts—cannot accept any peace that Israel offers. Peace has necessary principles and premises, led by full withdrawal, which is the natural price of peace that ensures the interests, rights, and dignity of all.

If Rabin chose the end of his visit to Washington to declare that Israel is not prepared to pay this price, then we have the right to ask a legitimate question: How long will Israel's intentions be heeded? And where does the U.S. sponsor, which is committed to advancing the peace process, stand toward these statements? It is clear that the policy of appeasing Israel can only lead to disaster. The Israeli effort to obstruct the honest U.S. role requires U.S. action that emphasizes the credibility of the declared U.S. commitment to work for just and comprehensive peace. Otherwise, the Israeli policy will only further complicate the situation and the peace process, especially since Rabin's statements were made before an expected tour by Secretary Christopher to continue the U.S. effort. The statements are one way of placing more obstacles before the tour. What will Washington do to respond to the Israeli bullets that were fired at Christopher's tour even before it has begun?

TISHRIN: Israel Obstructing Peace

JN2611101694 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0545 GMT 26 Nov 94

[Press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] In a commentary entitled "Israel's Maneuvers," TISHRIN says that if peace is to be established in the Middle East, then there is no alternative to a complete Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights and southern Lebanon.

TISHRIN notes Syria's position, as explained several times by President Hafiz al-Asad, which states that there can be no peace without a complete Israeli withdrawal.

The paper says that Rabin's statements in the past few days and then the statements in which Peres denied that he asked the Argentine president to convey proposals on a complete withdrawal from the Golan Heights in return for peace confirm once again that Israel is evading the requirements of the just peace and the substance of the U.S. peace initiative; that is land for peace.

TISHRIN stresses that the Golan Heights is Syrian territory from time immemorial and the return of that land, which Israel occupied by force, is a world demand, as much as a Syrian one. The paper adds that the statements of Rabin and Peres over the Golan Heights strengthen the belief that Israel does not want to return the occupied territories and that its talk about peace with Syria is no more than a maneuver to sell the suspect Oslo agreement.

TISHRIN concludes by saying: If Israel really wants an honorable peace, it would not have denied Peres' statements. Syria, after all, has clearly stated its readiness for a complete peace in return for a complete withdrawal. So why does Israel refuse to abide by complete withdrawal unless it does not want peace but is only maneuvering to deceive the United States and world public and to shuffle cards in the region?

In a commentary entitled "Different Kinds of Peace," AL-THAWRAH says: Israel must determine exact positions and abide by these positions before the world, particularly the United States since it is the principal sponsor of the peace process.

The paper notes Rabin's statements in Washington in which he said that the kind of peace which Syria wants requires a price which Israel cannot pay. AL-THAWRAH stresses that the kind of peace sought by President al-Asad is the just and comprehensive peace, the peace of the brave and this is rejected by Israel.

The paper adds: Israel is used to being paid for its other kinds of peace. It is used to imposing its conditions and own kind of peace and, on top of that, getting its price. Therefore, it finds it strange that in its peace with Syria, a genuine peace must be achieved. Therefore, Israel has to pay a price it is not used to paying in its various kinds of peace and the separate deals, which it has already struck. Israel is trying to suggest that Syria is responsible for the stalemate in the peace process because it demands an illogical price, and the best proof of that is that the other Arabs have not demanded such a price in the first place.

AL-THAWRAH concludes by saying: At any rate, the Syrian position is well known. President Hafiz al-Asad's statements to the Argentine president are yet another confirmation on Syria's genuine desire for peace and give yet further proof that it is Israel which is rejecting and obstructing [peace] because it is evading the U.S. initiative and the U.S. legitimacy.

India**More Arrested in ISRO Spy Probe; Pakistan Accused**

*BK0212160194 Hong Kong AFP in English 1434 GMT
2 Dec 94*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] New Delhi, Dec 2 (AFP)—An Indian businessman was arrested by police Friday [2 December] for alleged involvement in a spy scandal to obtain secrets of India's ambitious space rocket programme.

Sudhir Kumar Sharma was held in Thiruvananthapuram, capital of the southern state of Kerala, on charges of leaking classified information to two Maldivian women, the Press Trust of India said.

Sharma is the fourth Indian to be arrested in the case, the biggest in India's space programme.

He supplied steel to the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), headquartered in the southern city of Bangalore, and allegedly used his contacts to obtain secrets, PTI added.

Newspapers here said Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence controlled the two Maldivians to gather information from two top space scientists and a businessman in return for money and sex.

Police on Thursday arrested Nambi Narayanan, a senior ISRO official and deputy director of its Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre (LPSC) at Valiamama, near Thiruvananthapuram.

Narayanan was under surveillance since the arrest last week of another ISRO scientist, D. Sasikumaran. Earlier, K. Chandrasekaran, an Indian businessman who represents the Russian space agency Glavkosmos, was taken into custody.

Newspapers said the scientists had palmed off the entire drawings of the home-made version of a French rocket used in the Indian missile programme as well as key papers and drawings of a pilotless aircraft project.

Investigating agencies have put at least 20 more (scientists), police officers and businessmen under watch and more arrests are likely.

Security Needs of Science Establishments Viewed**'Fresh Look' Needed**

*BK0312133394 Delhi THE PIONEER in English 3 Dec
94 p 8*

[Editorial: "An Unpardonable Lapse"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The full ramifications of the espionage scandal that has surfaced in the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) are yet to be known, but reports that have come out so far are disturbing in the

extreme and indicate that the ISRO has been penetrated by agents of foreign powers. The extent of damage done to ISRO may never be known, but given the strategic and commercial importance of the dedicated research done at the organisation, it is surprising that the spy ring which is said to involve top scientists, businessmen and policemen should have come to light by a virtual accident. While the culpability of the persons involved in the espionage ring is unforgivable if it is established, it is necessary to look beyond the immediate. With the country's space and missile research plans sharing the fruits of propulsion development, it is logical that the sleuths inquiring into the scandal would scan the Defence Research and development Organisation (DRDO) as well.

That the security at the organisation which engages in sensitive work has been lax is obvious. But the implications go beyond this. It is high time the Government took steps to ensure that data vital to the country's security is guarded more zealously than it has been so far. It would be easy to condemn the scientists' yen for thirty pieces of silver. Indian S&T experts command top-of-the-line salaries in the industrialised nations and the Indian training institutions have been traditional recruiting grounds for the West. Dozens of Indian scientists work at science and technology research establishments in Western countries, and those working here have been regularly tempted by foreign companies with attractive salaries. With the Indian middle class exposed to the good things in life. It would be unrealistic to expect them to continue to be content with now low Government salaries. It is time the Government stopped treating the scientific establishments as Government departments and scientist as mere employees. Technology holds the key to development, and the Government would do well to deal with them as professionals.

At the same time there is a need to take a fresh look at the security needs of scientific establishments. The frontier research units are no doubt under the surveillance of the intelligence agencies, but the stakes are increasing as India bids for a place among the world's scientific and military elite, and the intelligence organs would have to hone their antennae sharper to match wits with those who would like to deny this country such a status or delay its progress in key areas. Security at the S&T establishments is not just chowkidari [night watchmen], but involves understanding of science and technology if only to know what leaks to look for. The intelligence organs would have to undertake, if they have not already done so, the normal international practice of regular vetting of S&T personnel, particular in key positions. That, of course, would involve intrusive surveillance but the security stakes for the country are heavy enough to afford that price.

Foreign Influence Cited

*BK0312133694 Delhi HINDUSTAN TIMES in English
3 Dec 94 p 13*

[Editorial: "ISRO Spy Scandal"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The uncovering of a spy network that had compromised several scientists working at the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) in Kerala is nothing short of scandalous. The little that has been revealed to the media so far indicates that a number of scientists in key positions, including ISRO's deputy director Nambi Narayanan, were part of a spy racket that also included some high-level police officers and businessmen. It is quite likely that the whole racket may have continued uninterrupted had not a liaison between a Maldivian woman and a scientist working at ISRO come under suspicion leading to vital clues. What subsequently came to light showed that it was not just the aberration of a single scientist but a regular racket that operated at several levels. In the process, highly sensitive information, including some drawings of India's indigenous cryogenic systems project, seem to have been leaked to foreign agents. Pakistan's ISI, which is believed to have master-minded the spy ring, seems to have gone about the business in a highly methodical manner and was using a couple of women from neighbouring Maldives, with which India has the best of relations. The fact that the Indian agents of the Russian space agency 'Glokosmos' too had some role to play in establishing linkages would suggest that apart from the ISI, other external agencies too might have been involved. It is relevant to recall that both Russia and the United States had reason not to be quite pleased about India's decision to indigenously develop the cryogenic system.

The spy scandal raises larger questions regarding the existing system of providing security cover against external penetration to scientific establishments working in defence and other highly sensitive areas. The ISRO episode also raises serious doubts about the efficacy of the existing security systems. If ISRO could be so blatantly and so extensively penetrated into, how could one be certain that the other equally sensitive establishments are safe? It is almost six weeks since the first clues of the ISRO episode came to light which is far too long for the investigators to get to the bottom of the scandal. In the case of foreign intelligence operations, the evidence and the ramifications of a racket have a tendency to disappear as soon as these are exposed.

According to reports Kerala Chief Minister K. Karunakaran has been taking his time in deciding whether the investigations should be handed over to the CBI. But matters of national security do not have to be subject to the whims or conveniences of a Chief Minister. These are issues which automatically fall into the domain of agencies such as RAW [Research & Analysis Wing] and the IB [Intelligence Branch]. And, as professional agencies, they should be expected to know their job within a regime of democratic accountability. Unfortunately, the effectiveness of these agencies has been seriously eroded by political and bureaucratic interference and even undue exposure through the media and other forums. The morale of these agencies consequently has dropped a record low. The Joint Intelligence Committee (JIC), which used to be a hands on agency in the

sphere of intelligence services, seems to have turned reclusive. It is time to undertake a detailed examination of the inadequacies of the existing security and intelligence arrangements and to initiate prompt remedial measures. The warning shot sounded through the ISRO spy scandal should not go unheeded.

Leader of Banned al-Mojahedin Organization Arrested

BK0312133194 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1630 GMT 2 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In the Kashmir valley, the security forces achieved a major success with the arrest of the self-styled commander-in-chief of the banned al-Mojahedin Force, Abdur Rahman alias Rahman Tiger. He was produced before mediapersons today when he admitted that he was inducted by the ISI [Inter Service Intelligence] for indulging in massive destruction in the valley.

[Begin recording in Urdu] [Abdur Rahman] I was given some money by the ISI under [words indistinct]

[Unidentified correspondent] How much money was given?

[Abdur Rahman] About 600,000 to 700,000 rupees. And I was asked to induct movements. Later, they forced me to form a movement whose name is Al-mojahedin. As per their instructions, some guests have come in here, of whom five are from Pakistan and two from Afghanistan. At first, the people liked (?militants), but now they have started hating them.

[Correspondent] Why have they started hating?

[Abdur Rahman] It is due to our fault.

[Correspondent] What were your faults?

[Abdur Rahman] Wherever we went [words indistinct]

[Correspondent] Then what were the other faults?

[Abdur Rahman] [Words indistinct]

And I appeal to all the militants to give up the path of militancy and come to national mainstream, which will be their right path. [end recording]

Meanwhile, nine solar powered missiles were recovered for the first time in Kupwara sector by the BSF [Border Security Force] yesterday. BSF officials said these missiles were meant to hit vital installations in the valley.

Iran

Ayatollah Khamene'i Selected as Source of Emulation

Nateq-Nuri Announces Marja'

LD0312202594 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1642 GMT 3 Dec 94

[Speech by Majles Speaker 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri at the memorial service for the late Grand Ayatollah Araki in

Ayatollah Motahhari Mosque in the presence of Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i, President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, and other domestic and foreign dignitaries in Tehran on 3 December—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] I wish to express my thanks to the esteemed and respected Association of the Instructors of Qom Religious Seminary. Although I am a member of the Militant Clergy Association [Jameh-ye Rowhaniyat-e Mobarez], yet as a member of this community—our national and popular community—as a member of this community, I also express my thanks to the Militant Clergy Association because—as they always did in the past during sensitive junctures—they came forward and expressed their views and saved the people from indecisiveness. They expressed their opinion through insight. Last night it was the source of great pleasure and happiness to me when at 2100 [1730 GMT] the television broadcast the announcements of the esteemed Association of the Instructors of Qom Religious Seminary and the esteemed Militant Clergy Association of Tehran in connection with the issue of marja'iyat [source of emulation]—and a number of eminent personalities, the ulema, the jurisconsults provided those yardsticks.

See, if a person does not believe in the vali-ye faqih [supreme jurisconsult], he is not fit to become a marja' [source], even if he is a mountain of learning. If we do not believe in the velayat-e faqih [guardianship of the jurisconsult] our entire government will be under a question mark. The safeguarding of this government is the most necessary obligation. One day there may be a war, one day there will be peace, one day they issue decrees to establish relations with this country or not to have relations with another country. Then a gentleman, without having any knowledge of the issues and affairs of the day, may come and say that he does not regard it as permissible. Of what use is such a person to Islam! We express our thanks to those two organizations who realized this fact.

With apologies to the esteemed guardian [Ayatollah Khamene'i], please allow me to say this sentence. The two organizations became aware of this fact that our dear nation, our noble and faithful people chose the leader [Khamene'i] who was selected by the experts of the Assembly of Experts as a fully qualified mujtahid, based on the guidance that was provided by the imam [Khomeyni], God's blessings be with him; and today he has been selected as the marja'-e taqlid [source of emulation] of the Shiites of the world. [crowd chants "Khamene'i is the imam, he is the marja' of the Shiites] We should thank them for it. [passage omitted]

[Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian at 1145 GMT on 3 December broadcasts a recording of Nateq-Nuri's speech that does not contain the last paragraph above of the television version, but contains the following passage not found in the above version:

"As you can see in the past few nights, BBC radio has become the center for stage-managing the Shiite marja'iyat. As you can see, foreign radios and the Zionists, the Israelis are giving their views on Shiite marja'iyat these nights. They act according to their wishes: they make minor figures into major ones. They fabricate marja'iyat for us and engage in propaganda to a great extent. They have their own aims, they don't care about Shiites.

"Mr so and so who sits in England, his father might have been a cleric [akhundzadeh] or he might have been a cleric [akhund] himself; those preachers of the kings [vo'az ol-salatin] and those court clerics [akhundhay-e darbari] who could not tolerate this system and ran away from the country because of their black records, today they have become the BBC's experts! These nights, they want to tell us what to do about our marja'iyat."

Selection Process Reviewed

NC0312142894 Tehran SALAM in Persian 24 Nov 94 p 1

[From the News Desk]

[FBIS Translated Text] The English newspaper IRAN NEWS citing reliable sources stated in today's edition that: The central council of the Tehran Militant Clergy Association has held numerous sessions in view of the serious physical condition of his eminence Ayatollah Araki and has come to the conclusion that some of the mojtaheds [experts on Islamic jurisprudence] who have the qualities of a marja' [source of emulation] should be introduced to the people.

According to these sources four of the 'ulema of the Qom seminary have been identified as having the qualities for marja'iyat [state of being a source of emulation]:

1. Ayatollah Vahid Khorasani
2. Ayatollah Mirza Javad-Tabrizi
3. Ayatollah Behjat
4. Ayatollah Fazel Lankarani

The Tehran Militant Clergy Association has also proposed the names of Ayatollah Musavi-Zanjani, and Ayatollah Naser Makarem-Shirazi. The Association has also called on the Muslim Iranian people to select one from those nominated, all of whom are endowed with a high level of piety and justice as their source of emulation.

In its yesterday's edition the RESALAT newspaper cited the sermon by Ayatollah Azeri-Qomi in Khaveh district during which he had introduced Ayatollah Behjat for the people to turn to if they wish to spare Ayatollah Araki.

Marja' Role Explained

LD0212181494 Tehran IRNA in English 1625 GMT 2 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Dec. 2, IRNA—The Jame' Ruhaniyat-e Mubarez [Jameh-ye Rowhaniyat-e

Mohareh—Militant Clergy Association] of Tehran said in a communique released here today that Ayatollah Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, Ayatollah Mohammad Fazl Lankarani, and Mirza Javad-Aqa Tabrizi are fully qualified (jame' al-sharayat) fuqaha (juriconsults) for the position of marja'iyat.

It said history and civilization, the Islamic ummah in particular, will ever remain indebted to the lofty efforts of personalities with foresight and wisdom who have protected this cultural heritage and bequeathed it to posterity in its purest form.

"The history of the Shi'ite struggle and ijtehad glows with the indefiable imprints of personalities who like the prophet donned the armour of piety and took the sword of intellect and logic to successfully safeguard the grand ideal of velayat-alavi (of Imam 'Ali)," said the communique.

It said with the start of the long absence of the imam of the time Hazrat Mahdi (the 12th infallible imam of the prophet's ahl-ul-bait, may Allah hasten his reappearance) and the people's lack of access to the infallible (ma'soum) imam, the qualified fuqaha (jame' al-sharayat) entrusted with the responsibility from the hidden imam, have in every age and era shouldered the task of expounding the dynamism of the shari'ah to cope with the changing intellectual and spiritual needs of the society, by delving deep into the ocean of the Qur'an and the traditions and on the basis of wisdom and consensus.

The communique took the name of the great books compiled over the past millenium by mujtahids on the dynamism of the shari'ah to cater to the times.

"The personality that occupied such position is the source and the responder to the intellectual and religious needs of the Islamic ummah and we consider such people to be protectors of Islam and legatees of prophets... [no closing quote as received]

Therefore, the marja'iyat has throughout the period of the absence of the imam of our time been the axis of guidance. And we appreciate the weight and the sensitivity of the topic as we recall any [word indistinct] by Imam Khomeyni who said with reference to the role of faqih (jurisprudence) [words indistinct] administers the affairs of the society from the cradle to the grave.

The Ruhaniyat statement said marja'iyat has been the rallying point throughout history against all forms injustice, deviations, schism and the like. "We all saw the power of Shi'ite marja'iyat in ushering in the great Islamic revolution...today the Islamic system, with its humanely lofty and divinity in addition to having high position in the international political system is a beacon of hope for all who are worried and for the freedom lovers.

"It is not without reason that these days the propaganda trumpets of the supercilious world powers are busy with analyzing marja'iyat and in the form of wet nurses who

pretend to be more kind-hearted than the real mother for the Shi'ite world imitation [as received]..." it said.

"In conditions that our avowed enemies, led by the world devourer United States of America are confronting Islam and the revolution with all their power in a bid to destroy the marja'iyat of the Shi'ites, we should stand with all our faith and revolutionary fervour in order to carry this trust to its real owner, Imam Mahdi," added the statement.

The central council of the Ruhaniyat-e Mohareh said "with respect to historical roots and deep popular beliefs and the constructive and fundamental role of marja'iyat, several meetings were held in in the wake of the deterioration of the health of the lofty marja' of Sheykh al-Fuqaha Ayatollah Mohammad 'Ali Araki, and also after his passing away, to study the topic of marja'iyat and imitation.

"The agenda of the talks, by reviewing all sides and considering all exigencies and emphasis on protection of the achievements of the revolution and lofty aspirations of Imam Khomeyni and then adapting those criteria with samples, eventually arrived at a certain very clear point.

It said such an opinion has been formed on the basis of some very important factors which it described in brief as follows:

1. The enemies of the Islamic revolution in a bid to break of the system of the velayat-e faqih [guardianship of the jurisconsult] had concentrated their aims on the post-Imam Khomeyni period speculating that the power will be divided between the marja' and the leader and the latter will be weakened. But their satanic hope turned into despair, thanks to the serious support of Grand Ayatollah Seyyed Mohammad Reza Golpaygani and Grand Ayatollah Araki for velayat and leadership of Ayatollah Khamene'i.

They continue this mischief after the death of these two marja' in a bid to impair the axis of the system which is the leadership of velayat-e faqih.

2. Pious people in their references and frequent requests have asked the ulama to introduce jurisprudent and scientific personalities so that they can entrust their affairs to them and so that they will be able to help the people in the important issue of taqlid or imitation.

3. The duty that the ulama shoulder under the circumstances caused them, like in the past, to give a positive response to the call of the noble people and help them with this affair, so that certain fuqaha would be introduced and that the people will obey the orders of their leader...

"With respect to the above the 'ame' Ruhaniyat-e Mohareh of Tehran hereunder announces the names of the ayatollahs and highest ranking fuqaha, following

whom will be without problem, and that acting according to their fatwa is correct and without liability:

1. Ayatollah Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i.
2. Ayatollah Mohammad Fazel Lankarani,
3. Ayatollah Mirza Javad-Aqa Tabrizi."

Qom Selects Seven Candidates

LD0212182794 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1730 GMT 2 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] An important statement from the Howzeh-ye Elmiyeh-e Qom Theological School on marja'iyat [the state of being the source of emulation]:

In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. The issue of marja'iyat is one of those great issues that cannot be divorced from the interests of Muslims and their independence and glory or be attended to without due regard to the conspiracies of the infidel and arrogant against Islam. Therefore, the Qom Theological Lecturers Association [Jame'e-ye Modarresin-e Qom] has debated the issue in numerous sessions and eventually in a session dated Friday 11/9/73 [2 December 94] has reached the following conclusion. Their eminences, the ayatollahs whose names follow fulfil the conditions for marja'iyat and emulating any one of them is permissible. God knows [best].

1. His Eminence Ayatollah Haj Sheykh Mohammad-Fazel Lankarani.
2. His Eminence Ayatollah Haj Sheykh Mohammad-Taqi Bahjat.
3. His Eminence Ayatollah Haj Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, the exalted leader.
4. His Eminence Ayatollah Haj Sheykh Hoseyn Vahid-Khorasani.
5. His Eminence Ayatollah Haj Sheykh Javad Tabrizi.
6. His Eminence Ayatollah Haj Seyyed Musa Shobeyri-Zanjani.
7. His Eminence Ayatollah Haj Sheykh Naser Makarem-Shirazi. May their blessings continue. The Qom Theological Lecturers Association. 11/9/73.

'Ulema Endorse Khamene'i

LD0412225894 Tehran IRNA in English 2225 GMT 4 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Dec. 4, IRNA—A few more 'ulema on Sunday [4 December] in official communiques reaffirmed Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i's qualification for marja'iyat. They were:

Ayatollah Seyyed Mehdi Ebadi of Mashhad, Ayatollah Ma'sumi, member of the experts council, Ayatollah Seyyed 'Ali-Akbar Qorayshi, member of the experts council, Ayatollah Seyyed Saber Jabbari of the Qom theological school, Hojjat ol-Eslam Fazel Ferdowsi, Hojjat ol Eslam Musavi, leader of the Friday congregational prayers of Mehran,

Ayatollah Reza Ostadi, teacher at Qom theological school.

Ayatollah Sermon on Marja', Seminary Issues

NC0312165994 Tehran RESALA in Persian 23 Nov 94 p 2

[Report by RESALAT correspondent from Qom]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Last week Ayatollah Azeri-Qomi addressed the Friday prayers in Khaveh District and explained his views on the future marja' and issues pertaining to the seminaries and shari'ah.

He said: The seminary should train efficient people. Referring to the role of the seminary in an Islamic system, he said: The main philosophy behind the seminaries is that they should train jurists, propagators, those who interpret the Koran, writers, orators, philosophers, gnostics, leaders, presidents, heads of the judiciary, other high-level officials of the Islamic Republic, and those who go to the Muslims in other parts of the world.

He added: The fact is that our seminary has a long way to go before it reaches the boundaries of a system. Speaking on the issue of the marja' [source of emulation], he said that he is against having too many of them. He said: At present the maraje' [plural of marja'] are the managers in the seminaries. Is it possible to administer a seminary in an organized manner if we have many maraje', fatwas, and varied tastes? Every day we hear of the thesis of order amid chaos, which is supported by some of the candidates for the rank of a marja'. The country needs an Islamic expert and the Islamic world needs a compassionate propagator.

In short, I wish to state that to implement the divine injunctions, for order in the country and in the Islamic world, it is essential that all Muslims at home and abroad, Sunnis and Shiites, should pay the Islamic levies of zakat [compulsory charity in Islam] and khoms [Islamic tithes] to the Islamic government and the leader. This will enable the Islamic leadership to identify the geographical regions in the Islamic world and to assist the oppressed and the needy families, as well as to resolve their religious and material issues and problems partially or completely. [passage omitted]

In another part of his sermons during the Friday prayers, Ayatollah Azeri-Qomi spoke on the issue of marja'iyat [state of being a source of emulation] after His Eminence Grand Ayatollah Araki, saying: I was asked who in my opinion will be the marja' after His Eminence Ayatollah Araki. As an expert and one who is overseeing that the issue of marja'iyat does not digress from its correct path, I will declare my views. In answer to this question I will say that first, God willing, may God give a long life to his eminence Ayatollah Araki. In any case, to clarify the issue of the future marja' and even if someone wishes to consult another to spare his eminence, I would nominate

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his eminence Ayatollah Behjat, who is far more knowledgeable than all those who are being proposed for the marja'iyat.

Regarding the personality of his eminence Ayatollah Behjat, Azeri-Qomi said: His eminence Ayatollah Behjat is the student of their eminences Ayatollah Na'ini and Mohaqqueq-Esfahani. His brilliant record in study and instruction is undeniable. Some of the outstanding scholars at the Qom seminary who have studied for 15 years under him have performed laudably and are now famous mojtaheds [qualified jurisprudents]. In addition to his knowledge, he is well known for his piety and meticulous integrity in the holy city of Qom. To quote some of his friends, one cannot say that he is a pious man. He is in fact an embodiment of piety and justice, which are the best traits of a marja' that are present in him.

He elaborated: Of course, I do not mean that others are not pious or just, but there is a world of a difference between having similar qualities and actually being like another. Therefore, when I introduce his eminence for the marja'iyat, it will be because I have thought of every aspect between myself and God and have come to this conclusion. I am confident in proposing him so it is my duty to declare this accordingly. [passage omitted]

In another part of his Friday sermon, Ayatollah Azeri-Qomi mentioned the campaign against profiteering. He said: It is a cardinal sin to stand in lines for goods that are not needed. The government has announced that it has ample stock. Therefore, these long lines for sugar, shortening, etc. are unlawful and a cardinal sin at that, not a minor aberration. If you can wait, you should do so and when the crowd thins you can make your purchases or go to a place where there are not too many customers and only buy what you need. If you purchase in excess then the curses that befall the hoarders will also become your lot. [passage omitted]

Everyone should buy just enough for their needs so that no lines should form. Otherwise, the enemies of Islam who are viewing Islamic Iran with a microscope want to see these lines so that they can spread the propaganda that the government is unable to resolve economic problems.

Jannati Delivers Friday Prayers Sermons

LD0212165594 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1130 GMT 2 Dec 94

[First Friday prayers sermon delivered by Ayatollah Ahmad Jannati, Guardian Council member, in Tehran on 2 December—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. [passage omitted] I offer you my condolences for the demise of the great marja' of the Shi'a community, the eminent and pious scholar, his

eminence Grand Ayatollah Araki, may he be admitted to God's paradise. [passage omitted]

This was indeed a great loss for us, and we ask God to compensate this loss. We hope that the vacuum that has been created by this loss may be filled in the best possible manner so that our dear nation and all other Muslims abroad who obey sources of emulation may not feel a sense of bewilderment [heyrat]. God willing. [passage omitted]

At this juncture I want to talk briefly about the issue of marja'iyat, although I am aware that this debate will require a great deal of time.

First of all, I have to say that until a decision has been made on a new marja', those who emulated Araki can naturally carry on emulating him. This is because all our living religious scholars permit us to emulate the deceased marja's. This, therefore, poses no problem, and people should not worry. They should continue their course of emulation until a marja' is decided upon. This is as far as the dimension of jurisprudence is concerned.

Another issue concerning this topic, is that we are standing at the threshold of a development in the issue of marja'iyat. One must not overlook this. Marja'iyat has so far been following a certain course, and during a period of nearly 1,000 years, it has carried on following this course. This is to say that whenever a particular marja' passed away, religious thinkers, scholars, and experts would sit together to determine who has more religious learning and who is more pious than others.

These two factors, that is knowledge and piety, were the key criteria for their selection. There were also many sides to the issue of deciding who is the most erudite [a'lamiyat]. These, however, are technical and specialized topics, and this is not a place to go into them, especially as I really do not have the time here. Nevertheless, what is the criterion for determining the status of being the most erudite? Is it clarity of vision or degree of common understanding? Is it full knowledge of jurisprudence or a greater specific understanding of jurisprudence's principle rules, even though the peripheral rules are not always available and one constantly needs to refer to scriptures to make deductions? Or to what degree the full knowledge of the principle rules is important for issues of jurisprudence as a whole; and to what extent such a knowledge will determine the status of being the most erudite?

There are many issues similar to what I just said, and these have to be debated in religious seminaries.

In any case, the issue of the most erudite was a salient issue. And the next requirement was piety. However, today, this is not enough. In other words, ever since Islamic movements began, a new outlook was formed concerning marja'iyat, especially during our era and during the era of his eminence the imam [Khomeyni],

may he be admitted to God's paradise. He opened the way in many issues, including marja'iyat.

What all this means is that we cannot say that knowledge and piety are all the criteria needed. Of course, piety is needed and of course a sense higher than justice is required. [passage omitted]

Knowledge is also needed, there is no doubt in this. In any case, the source of emulation must be an expert in religious issues.

However, is this all? Today and in the future, if we just stick to these two qualities, has the problem been solved? If we find some one who fits the bill concerning knowledge and piety but is not acquainted with the problems of the day and today's society, do we have the right to emulate him? [passage omitted]

This is the point. Today we are passing through a phase when Islam is experiencing a revival. Islam is being divided between American Islam and the pure Islam; between an Islam that is favored by the despots and arrogant powers, and an Islam that is favored by the deprived, the oppressed, and the downtrodden of the earth. An Islam that can revive the jihad, that can revive the enjoining of good, that can revive the fight against corruption, that can revive the fight against injustice, that can cure the ailment of the people and the ailment of the society, and that can liberate Islamic societies from the degradation of foreign domination; this Islam is on one side and it is confronted on the other side by another Islam that is alien to the issues of the day and that is confined to personal and private issues.

If this issue is still not clear to some, in that case they have to review their understanding after such a long period of revolution and leadership and guidance by His Eminence the Imam, may he be admitted to God's paradise. But if this matter is clear to them, then they should look at the issue from this point of view.

The Imam uttered another sentence in his meeting with the Guardian Council and this sentence was also well publicized—thanks be to God—that the protection of Islam is more important than the protection of Islamic injunctions. This is a 100 percent rational issue. It means that if through a move we protect Islamic teachings but Islam itself is being endangered, with another move we protect Islam but it may to some extent disregard the teachings, we should decide whether we should sacrifice the main thing for the peripheral issue or whether we should sacrifice the peripheral for the sake of the main thing. [sentence as heard] This is the issue of the important and the more important, and it has a very clear rational explanation used by the religious seminaries; it is a clear principle. This is another point.

We are now in such a situation. We cannot separate ourselves from the caravan of humanity. Today we look around and see Christianity, which is truly lacking in divine and religious spirituality and which is an arid and

useless movement adopted by the churches at the moment. Nevertheless, we see that by adopting an organized policy in the appointment of the Pope, Christianity is creating a centralized power in the person of the Pope. Then every Christian—at least every Catholic—church and priest should follow him. Through this system they have maintained that lifeless corpse [Christianity]. Now, despite possessing an Islam with so much spirituality, with so much depth, with so much wealth, with such a strength for administering the world, with its ability to bestow honor, and with the greatness demonstrated during those revolution years when it showed it was able to bestow glory upon all Muslims and to destroy the forces waged against it, now as a result of a weak perception regarding the issue of marja'iyat and such like we might weaken it to such an extent that it cannot defend itself, let alone other Muslims.

These issues cannot be treated lightly. I am surprised of all those who have experienced the period of the revolution, who have witnessed the Imam, who have witnessed the power of Islam and the revolution, and who have heard so many remarks by the Imam, and still are not clear about this point. I see that, thanks be to God, the people and Hezbollah are finding their own path. And before some individuals try to get their shoes and hat together these people have already crossed the bridge. This is the beauty of the situation. This is the sign of the awareness of our people. [Crowd chants "God is great," "Death to the opponent of velayat-e faqih," and "Khamene'i is the imam, he is the marja' of the Shi'is"]

Please allow me! I really feel that—God willing I have not made a mistake—God is continuing its support for this revolution. With the blessing of all this blood, all this jihad, these young basijis [volunteer forces] and Hezbollahis; all those who still declare their willingness to plunge themselves in danger wherever there is a threat and defend Islam and the revolution. For that blessing God Almighty is supporting the revolution. Just as He did not forsake us after the passing away of the imam [Khomeyni], may God be satisfied with him. How many difficulties would there have been for our community if He had forsake us! And He resolved the issue most rapidly. I am confident to a certain extent that God will not forsake us in the issue of marja'iyat either and will continue the same support and guidance. But everyone must recognize and carry out their own duty. Those who must guide others should not become followers.

Ever since the imam, may God be satisfied with him, passed away, I could see abroad, first and foremost, and then domestically what insight the people have, what requirements they have and what path they are following. Now, the further we progress, the more we see the movement become prominent and clear.

In any case, the issue is that of Islam and the issue of choosing the most qualified person. If we suppose that those who are in the running for marja'iyat—five, 10, 20 persons, whatever—who have the qualifications from

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the scholarship point of view, from the point of view of piety—these qualifications we take as definite. The issue is not about casting aspersions on someone's piety, someone's scholarship; the issue is that we seek to choose the most qualified. [passage omitted]

The issue is that of choosing the most qualified, the best for Islam. We must keep in mind that our situation today is different from the situation 200 years ago, 300 years ago. We must keep in mind that we do not seek someone to give solutions to religious problems. It may be that someone wants to choose a problem-solver; well then, he can go and ask anyone who knows about problems and is trustworthy. That is all there is to that. [passage omitted]

What shall I do when I doubt whether I have done my prayers three times or four times? Then he will solve the problem. What shall I do concerning inheritance; our father is dead, how shall we divide the inheritance. Then he will solve that problem. What shall I do about my marriage, my divorce, personal situations and the like? Then he will solve the problem. That is one case; not at the level of giving solutions to problems but to issue fatwas on problems. [sentence as heard]

But that is not the issue in the matter of marja'iyat; the issue is far greater. It requires great insight to find the path. I believe that the issues are following their own course. The people are moving ahead of us. The people who have been trained by the imam possess sufficient awareness. We should pay attention to the two things the imam referred to; namely, those who are weak in judgement or weak in making decisions. If such people are put in charge they will create many complications for us, many complications for us.

We have a Constitution. Nearly 99 percent of those qualified to vote have voted for it. If one day somebody comes and says that he does not believe in velayat-e faqih—meaning that he does not believe in the Constitution and the votes of the people, and that all those efforts have been in vain—if by uttering a word he deals in this way with such a fundamental issue, while the imam used to say that the most progressive principle in the Constitution was the principle concerning velayat-e faqih. I am not talking about the issue of opposition to velayat-e faqih. Please let me continue, because I started a little late and it may get too late. The issue is not the issue of opposition to velayat-e faqih. I am talking about a jurisprudential understanding. It is a theological point whether we believe in velayat-e faqih or not, what are its limitations, and such like; but it may give rise to a fatwa. [sentence as heard]

Or regarding the issue of birth control, which the imam uses as an example in that letter. If one day it was decided that giving a free hand in the issue of births would give rise to certain problems for the country that cannot be solved and that causes problems for all the people; if the government or the spiritual leader of the country wish to reach a decision about birth control and limiting the number of children, then a fatwa may be

issued from a certain quarter saying that birth control is not permitted, thus giving rise to a national problem. There are many such issues. This is as much as I felt necessary to talk about in this sermon and in future I will talk about these issues again if I can.

In conclusion, let me just make another point. I ask those who propose a marja' that they should act within religious bounds. This issue should not lead to confrontation, and it will not. I am saying this just to stress the point. Every person may have a different understanding. I am just expressing my own view. Other gentlemen will express their views. The people are also free to choose between these different views. They should look and see which of these individuals who are expressing these views are the most trustworthy, whom they believe most, whose understanding and judgement and whose social and political standing they trust most, and they should follow that view. There is no problem with people expressing their views; but such issues, especially religious issues and those that affect the issue of marja'iyat and such sacred Islamic issues should never be marred by the slightest embellishments and doubts. There is no problem with different people saying what they wish and expressing their opinion, and the people should choose. [crowd chants "Khamene'i is the imam, he is the marja' of the Shiites"] [passage omitted]

Radio Covers Memorial Services for Araki

[FBIS Editorial Report] Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Network in Persian carries a special program after the 0530 GMT newscast on Ayatollah Khamene'i's memorial services to pay tribute to the late Grand Ayatollah Araki with roving correspondents reporting on people flocking to the mosque at Motahheri High School in Tehran. The remarks of the correspondents are interspersed with recitation and eulogies of the Grand Ayatollah Araki.

The correspondent, giving an eyewitness account of the proceedings, says that the services begin with recitation of the Holy Koran, which can be heard in the background. At 0600 GMT he says that President Hashemi-Rafsanjani has arrived to attend this gathering along with officials, armed forces personnel, and others.

An unidentified person is heard chanting some verses until 0649 GMT when the announcer says that Speaker of the Islamic Majles 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri is addressing the gathering. Nateq-Nuri is heard reciting Koranic verses with their translation and interpretation. Segments of his address are interspersed with correspondents' remarks, who interrupt in an effort to contact one another at the studio and at the site of the deliberations.

Nateq-Nuri is speaking on the personality of the late Ayatollah Araki when the announcer says that interviews with some listeners will be carried. Unidentified listeners speak on the victory of Islam and the strong bond between religion and politics while eulogizing the life and works of Ayatollah Araki. A listener telephones from

Mashhad saying: "Our message to the world is that the time for the concept of divide and rule has passed. We are too united for any one who wishes to sow discord among us."

The telephone calls are interspersed with somber music and remarks paying tribute to the late spiritual leader Araki and continues until 0705 GMT when the relay of the memorial service at the Motahheri High School is resumed. Nateq-Nuri is still addressing the gathering and is heard saying: "The enemies say that Islam is not related to politics; they mean that Islam does not have any government and that Islam has let the people run loose as far as government is concerned so that they have to live under the guardianship of every ruler and every domineering system whether corrupt or lascivious. A human being subsists in a system, which rules over the society. When they believe that religion is segregated from politics and that Islam and religion have no relation to politics or to the government, they mean that people should exist under any government, any ruler, any guardianship, that they should submit to accepting all forms of government forever."

The correspondent interrupts again from the studio with remarks in praise of the late Ayatollah Araki interspersed with melancholy music, recitation, calls by listeners expressing their sorrow on Araki's demise. A listener says: "The extensive participation of the people indicates their support for the marja'iyat [state of being a source of emulation] and the importance that they attach to jurisconsults, jurisprudence, and ejtehad. By participating in these ceremonies, our brothers and sisters have dealt a blow right in the face of all the enemies of Islam, the infidels, and the powers of world arrogance by saying that we support the marja'iyat."

Segments of Nateq-Nuri's address in progress are carried at 0702 GMT once again and he is heard paraphrasing some Koranic verses on the importance of prayers. He says: "The vital phenomenon of prayers is something the enemies cannot tolerate. This is their viewpoint on Islam, which the great imam described succinctly in one term, which is American-style Islam; an Islam that does not harm the United States, the Zionists, the infidels and idolatrous ones. They propagate this kind of Islam. Any cleric who declares that Islam is separate from politics is declared as a marja' [source of emulation] by the BBC. As you can see in the past few nights, BBC radio has become the center of stage-managing Shiite marja'iyat."

At 0720 GMT, the correspondent interrupts with more calls from listeners and at 0722 GMT Nateq-Nuri is once again heard speaking on the qualifications of a marja' saying that, in addition to proficiency in theology and Islamic jurisprudence, a person should have "acumen in correct perception of social issues," "in the power of decisionmaking, government affairs" "otherwise he cannot take the reins of society in his hands." The audience is heard shouting Khamene'i's name and the correspondent says that the deliberations have ended.

Foreign Forces' Exercise 'Exacerbate Tension'

LD0412125594 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1102 GMT 4 Dec 94

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] The military exercises being held by the United States and several Arab states in the Persian Gulf region, which began yesterday on Kuwaiti territory, will continue for five days. Forces from America, Bahrain, Kuwait, and the United Arab Emirates [UAE] are participating in these manoeuvres, which have been programmed by the American central command and the armed forces of Kuwait. The manoeuvres are carried out within the joint defense pacts between America and some of the states in the Persian Gulf region, including Bahrain, Qatar, UAE, and Kuwait.

Exploiting the results of the Iraqi attack against Kuwait and the Persian Gulf military expedition, America managed to get those pacts signed. In the opinion of political experts there is nothing to stop military exercises designed to strengthen defensive capability within the framework of legitimate right of defense of any country, but bringing foreign powers into a region which is shared by others is reprehensible and contrary to international laws and norms. Moreover, bearing in mind the objectives that foreign powers, headed by America, pursue in the Persian Gulf region, they will exacerbate tension in the region and eliminate the peaceful atmosphere which is attained by the absence of foreign forces.

The main objective that America and other foreign powers pursue in the region is the continued sale of their arms despite the developments in the international order, while the direct presence of foreign powers, with America leading them, in the Persian Gulf region is itself a crucial factor in increasing tension there. After Iraqi attack against Kuwait four years ago, America established the necessary grounds for its presence in the region and even now, despite Iraq's recognition of Kuwaiti sovereignty and territorial integrity, it is disinclined to close the Oil War [second Persian Gulf war] file. By creating new areas of tension, Washington tries to bring about the necessary grounds for continuing its presence there. For instance, according to an interpretation by the regional political circles, Thursday's attack by American helicopters against two Iraqi ships is considered one of those provocative measures.

On the other hand, maintaining national security through backing from foreign powers is not only considered as a sign of disrespect toward national sovereignty and independence but also a demonstration of the incompetence of some of the regional accords, including the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council. In any case, it is expected that the Persian Gulf regional states, making use of their bitter experiences gained from the presence of foreign forces, safeguard the security of the region through collective and regional cooperation.

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Meanwhile, it is clear that opposing the presence of foreign forces will bring about the necessary and sufficient conditions for establishing permanent security in the region.

Velayati Addresses Solidarity Among ECO States
LD0312225494 Tehran IRNA in English 2211 GMT 3 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Dec. 3, IRNA—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati here today in his address to the 4-day seminar of the ECO [Economic Cooperation Organization], said "we are in need of solidarity amongst ourselves because without it we cannot withstand the onslaught of the unfair policies of some other societies and thus will lack the necessary strength to reach our goal of economic development and advancement."

The expansion of Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) took place in the aftermath of the recent changes in the region, said Velayati, adding that it is thus clearly evident that regional cooperation plays a fundamental and increasingly major and important role in achieving permanent development, peace and stability in the region.

He also said "we can raise ECO to the standard of a successful regional organization. In other words the necessary leverage is available and what is needed now is finding the best and most suitable course of action to be followed in order to fully utilize these leverages."

From the time when the new members joined the economic cooperation organization, a great change has taken place in its activities with much positive results, he said.

Referring to the ECO's relations with the United Nations organizations, Velayati noted that ECO has established good relations with the Organization of the Islamic Conference (ICO), United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), Islamic Development Bank (IDB), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA).

Talks are also under way to establish relations between Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) and the European Union (EU), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) and other organizations, he added.

Elsewhere in his address, Velayati said in order to achieve ECO's goals, more pace should be given to the activities of the OIC by reducing the gap between the backward, developing and developed member states such that the region not only does not lag behind from the caravan of progress, but with the endeavors and cooperation of all, every body moves forward hand in hand together with the caravan."

"The main problem facing us at present is the lack of movement and slow progress, for the present mechanism in ECO cannot meet the demands," Velayati pointed out.

Seminar Discusses Prospects for ECO Expansion
NC0412102094 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0445 GMT 4 Dec 94

[Commentary by the News Research and Commentary Group]

[FBIS Translated Text] A seminar was held yesterday to find ways of strengthening the Economic Cooperation Organization [ECO] and to assess avenues for its swift expansion began with an address by the First Vice President Hasan Habibi in Tehran. During this four-day seminar, officials and experts from ECO member countries and specialized international organizations such as the EU [European Union], UNIDO [United Nations Industrial Development Organization], and the [IDB] Islamic Development Bank are participating.

The ECO was established in 1364 [year beginning 21 March 1985] with the membership of Iran, Pakistan, and Turkey and superseded the Regional Cooperation Development, set up in 1343 [year beginning 21 March 1964]. Its objective is to boost scientific, cultural, and economic cooperation, and leaders of the ECO founding countries sought to establish a reliable economic bloc for the implementation of coordinated policies in all fields. In 1370 [year beginning 21 March 1991], at the historic Tehran session, the Central Asian republics were also inducted into the ECO to make the organization a strong and attractive pole that would act as a bridge to link the continents of Europe and Africa, on the one hand, and Asia, on the other.

The practical program of the ECO encompasses 10 member countries, an area of more than 7 million square meters, and nearly 300 million people along with vast mineral, natural, and economic resources and manpower. This provides the opportunity to strengthen the economic, political, and cultural bonds among the members through precise identification of active and potential resources and related facilities in the member countries.

Economic experts believe that, in light of developments in the international system, which have created a profusion of regional unions and alliances, the world is witnessing the acceleration of a trend toward unification in the European continent, NAFTA, and APEC [Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation] and the strengthening of the ASEAN. Against such a backdrop, the expansion of the activities of the ECO will make a considerable contribution to freeing member countries from the domination of international economic poles.

Under the aegis of such cooperation, member countries will have greater bargaining power in international economic affairs, and the increase in national income levels

through mobilizing regional resources will provide an impetus to economic stability. This will be an important result of these ties.

In any case, the convocation of the seminar on ways to strengthen the ECO in Tehran with the participation of regional and international officials and experts and high-level officials of our country is an appropriate opportunity to evaluate ways of rapidly expanding the scope of the ECO and, by identifying weak and strong points in the organization from past experience, the ECO's activities can be accelerated and can cater to regional needs.

Commentary on UAE, Talks on Disputed Islands

LD0312170294 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1130 GMT 3 Dec 94

[Unattributed commentary]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] According to the French news agency, the head of the United Arab Emirates, UAE, Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, has asked the Islamic Republic of Iran to start negotiations on the dispute between the two countries or accept the raising of the issue of the ownership of the Persian Gulf islands at the International Court of Justice at The Hague. The UAE head, speaking on the independence day of the Emirates, also reminded that the UAE's policy with respect to its neighbors was based on the principle of good-neighborly ties and tolerance. If the UAE policy regarding its neighbors, including the Islamic Republic of Iran, is really based on tolerance and good-neighborly ties then the differences between the two countries can easily be resolved through direct talks. Therefore Tehran has always had the willingness to have talks with the UAE without any preconditions and foreign interference.

The UAE head should basically be aware of the fact that the Abu Musa island has been part of the Iranian territory since long and would remain so. Iran had never accepted the colonial occupation of Abu Musa by Britain and, because of the same, in 1971 Britain eventually was forced to leave the Island and hand it over to Iran. It is a cardinal fact that no country places its sovereignty under arbitration and, keeping in mind the same principle, the Islamic Republic of Iran calls on the UAE officials to accept Iran's offer of resumption of bilateral talks and not raise the baseless claims.

The Islamic Republic of Iran believes that the roots of the UAE policy of the Iranian island of Abu Musa should be traced in the pressure which is being put on that country from outside and which can be considered as part of the U.S. policies for creating disruption in the Islamic Republic of Iran's ties with its neighbors in the Persian Gulf.

In his indirect message to Iran, Shaykh Zayid has talked about tolerance and good-neighborly ties. Has the Islamic Republic of Iran's policy been anything other than this? Aside from the eight-year war that Islamic Iran

underwent in order to defend the Islamic government, Iran has always followed a policy of restraint and that of warning and at present too it is making a call to all the Persian Gulf countries, including the UAE, to demonstrate foresightedness and friendship to exchange views on the disputed matters.

Joint Commission With Libya Begins Work

LD0412215594 Tehran IRNA in English 2135 GMT 4 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Dec. 4, IRNA—The sixth Tehran-Tripoli Joint Economic, Technical, Commercial, Scientific and Educational Commission session was inaugurated in Tripoli on Sunday with participation of Labour and Social Affairs Minister Hoseyn Kamali.

Libyan Industry Minister and head of the commission for Libya Dr. Fathi Shatwan offered condolences to the Iranian delegation on Grand Ayatollah Ali Mohammad Araki's passing away and enumerated areas of cooperation between Iran and Libya.

Shatwan said the two countries should remove obstacles in the way of implementing agreements already reached so as to further expand bilateral cooperation. He called for the two countries' private sectors' contribution into joint economic cooperation.

Kamali announced Iran's readiness for promotion and improvement of bilateral cooperation and said Iranian officials deeply understood problems imposed on the Muslim country of Libya by the unjust sanctions of global arrogance and were ready to extend all kinds of help to Libya.

He said presence of a high ranking delegation from Iran in Libya in such a condition was indicative of Iran's practical readiness and its sincere will for cooperation. Outlining areas of cooperation among various sectors of the two countries, Kamali underscored the need for removal of minor obstacles on the way of implementation of the agreements. Kamali said the volume of Irano-Libyan export over the past four years had increased 20 times.

Morocco Invites President to Casablanca Summit

LD0512112794 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 5 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Moroccan Islamic Affairs Minister Abdelkebir M'daghri met with President Hashemi-Rafsanjani today and offered condolences on the demise of His Eminence Grand Ayatollah Araki, the world Shiite source of emulation. During the meeting he presented a formal invitation from King Hassan of Morocco to our country's president to attend the Islamic summit in Casablanca.

Stressing the importance of Iran's role in developments in the Islamic world, the Moroccan minister said that the active presence of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the

form of a top-ranking delegation at this summit would be highly effective for the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] and for demonstrating the unity of the Muslim countries. The Moroccan Islamic affairs minister also called for the expansion of ties between the two countries.

At this meeting, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani expressed his gratitude for the invitation to attend the Morocco summit. He said: The many difficulties facing the Islamic world make it necessary for the ICO heads to seize the opportunity at the Morocco summit to cooperate, exchange views, and find fundamental ways of tackling these difficulties. He stressed: Among the requirements of the Islamic world, which should be the major agenda for discussion at the Islamic summit, are the creation of unity, identification of true friends and foes, proper understanding of the Islamic world's situation, belief in ourselves, reliance on talents and potentials of the Muslim states to develop their countries, and removal of the difficulties.

The president expressed the hope that the outcome of the Morocco summit would benefit the entire Islamic world.

Strategic Weapons Said Aimed at Opposition in Iraq

NC0512065294 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0500 GMT 5 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Reports from Iran indicate that the Iranian regime is directing its strategic weapons at the Iranian opposition on the border with Iraq. Scud missiles and aircraft bombs are involved. The reports say that the Iranian authorities now fully realize that antiregime operations have become a common occurrence throughout Iran. Demonstrations have been staged over the past two days to protest bad living and economic conditions in Iran.

Maldives

President on Indian Espionage Case, Elections

BK0412103994 Hong Kong AFP in English 0820 GMT 4 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Male, Dec 4 (AFP)—The Maldives has received no official communication from India about a spying scandal in which two Maldivian women

have been accused of receiving Indian space secrets, President Maumoon Abdul Gayoom said Sunday [4 December].

"We have not been told by the Indian authorities about the case itself," Gayoom said in an interview with AFP. "I received a letter from one of those persons in which she said that she has been arrested by the police and she wants the government's help," he added.

Indian police arrested Mariam Rashida and Fousia Hassan in October and charged them with using sex and money to obtain information from officials of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO). The case led to several arrests, including that of Nambi Narayanan, deputy director of ISRO's Liquid Propulsion System Centre.

Gayoom said he had asked the foreign ministry to get in touch with the Indian authorities.

"They said that those two persons have been taken into custody for investigation of certain offenses," he said. "But we don't actually know what they are. We haven't been told the details of what they are being charged with."

The Maldivian president, South Asia's longest serving head of state, also said he was "very happy with the conduct" of Friday's parliamentary elections in the Indian Ocean archipelago of 225,000 people.

"I am highly satisfied that they were free and fair," he said.

Maldivians went to the polls on Friday to elect a 48-member Majlis, or Citizen's Council, for the next five years. The full results from the vote could take up to a week to be tallied because they have to be brought to the capital Male by boat.

There are no political parties in the Maldives but Gayoom said a multi-party system was under consideration. "We are studying whether it would be good for the country to have a multi-party system or not. It's not that the government has banned parties," he said. "There have never been political parties in the country."

"The only difficulty at the time being is that we don't have any legal framework under which a party system can function."

"I think it's very important that we should have legislation in place so that parties can function within the law," he said. "We are considering that aspect."

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